

LEICESTER & NEWPORT TEAM GROUPS

SHOOT!

22p

INCORPORATING
SOCCER MONTHLY

6th DECEMBER, 1980

**WHY
LIVERPOOL
WILL
RETAIN
THE TITLE**

**SCOTLAND'S
SUPER KIDS**

LEAGUE CUP
Quarter-Finals

**WALLACE
& WARD**
Forest's
tiny terrors

SPECIAL REPORT

**The future
of football?**

SHOOT! view!

THE knives would appear to be sharpening for Ernie Walley's scalp as "trialist" manager of Crystal Palace.

He could only have winced as the club's chairman, Ray Bloye, felt disposed to remark: "There is no crisis here," before adding: "I spent several hours at the club and all I could see was smiling faces."

Bloye made the comment after receiving transfer demands from Gerry Francis, Vince Hilaire and Jerry Murphy.

But as most managers appreciate only too well, votes of confidence can serve as a death warrant. How often has a manager received a pat on the back one minute only to be shown the front door the next?

Palace have given Walley the benefit of a season's trial as caretaker-manager, but soccer history suggests that he should proceed with caution.

Many inconspicuous backroom men have been promoted from track-suit to the manager's office only to perish.

The rise and fall of Wilf McGuinness at Manchester United, Richard Dinnis at Newcastle United, Willie Bell at Birmingham, Sammy Chung at Wolves and Colin Murphy at Derby did nothing to enhance soccer's fading image.

John Lyall at West Ham and Bob Paisley at Liverpool are two notable exceptions.

Establish

Walley's biggest problem is to establish from his board what he has to achieve to keep his job.

Will they settle for First Division survival? Or are they expecting him to lead the club to the glory that everyone predicted when they were hailed rather extravagantly and prematurely as the "Team of the 80's"?

Few could quarrel, however, with the start he made. Palace won the first two League games under the new regime, lost against Leeds, drew with Norwich and started November on the crest of the wave by beating Manchester United. They even took a point off Liverpool.

Yet there is still a suspicion that he has not been truly accepted.

Unfortunately for him, he lacks some of the charisma of his predecessors, Malcolm Allison and Terry Venables. He even felt it necessary to tell football writers how to spell his name after years of anonymity in the background at Selhurst Park.

If it serves as any comfort to Mr Walley, Bob Paisley also lacks the public appeal of the Robert Redford-type managers. The Liverpool boss compensates for any shortage of public appeal with a far more important quality — soccer brains.

In the end, only results count. If Ernie Walley gets the results he might keep the job. Unfortunately, his future is no more certain than that. It's the price he pays for inheriting one of the toughest jobs in the world — that of football club manager.

1978-79

	HOME					AWAY				
	P	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A	Pts
L'pool	42	19	2	0	51 4	11	6	4	34 12	68
Nottm. F	42	11	10	0	34 10	10	8	3	27 16	60
W Brom	42	13	5	3	38 15	11	6	4	34 20	59
Everton	42	12	7	2	32 17	5	10	6	20 23	51
Leeds	42	11	4	6	41 25	7	10	4	29 27	50
Ipswich	42	11	4	6	34 21	9	5	7	29 28	49

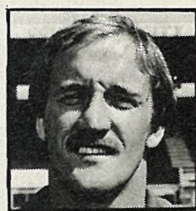
1979-80

	HOME					AWAY				
	P	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A	Pts
L'pool	42	15	6	0	46 8	10	4	7	35 22	60
Man U	42	17	3	1	43 8	7	7	7	22 27	58
Ipswich	42	14	4	3	43 13	8	5	8	25 26	53
Arsenal	42	8	10	3	24 12	10	6	5	28 24	52
Nottm. F	42	16	4	1	44 11	4	4	13	19 32	48
Wolves	42	9	6	6	29 20	10	3	8	29 27	47

1980-81



Four stars forecast TITLE HAT-TRICK FOR LIVERPOOL



*'The Kop worth
a goal start'*

JIM BLYTH (Coventry)

I BELIEVE Liverpool might land the title again for one reason — their crowd will be worth an extra few points to them, and those could be decisive. Anfield's crowd is worth a goal start to them whenever they play at home, but at Ipswich they only come to life when their side is two or three goals up. That might seem a small matter but it could be the deciding factor in a tight League Championship title race.

The Champions had to wait until October 4th for their first away win, but at home it's a different story as they showed when they equalled the home record by beating us 2-1 recently.

Liverpool always seem to have a bad patch and it's often at the start. But just look at the table after the first 16 League games — Liverpool second, three points behind Aston Villa.

Ipswich made a superb start but then stuttered which let Villa in. All the time Liverpool remained within striking distance of the leaders. Others have been near the top, but none are consistent enough to stay up there.

The great secret is their ability to pick up points, or even win, when they're playing poorly. Other clubs have to match that if they want to land the title.

Bob Paisley's men look as formidable as ever. I don't think they'll have another bad patch

before the end of the season, because they only have one bad spell in a season.

They had that at the start so expect them to go right through to the end now, in top form. It'll be hard for any side to match that kind of form and frankly, I don't see anyone stopping Liverpool's hat-trick attempt.

I'd like to see another club win the title this season to break the monotony of another Liverpool win. But if I had to put money on a side, I wouldn't think very long — it would go on the Champions. They have two crucial factors in their favour; they have more depth in their squad than any of their rivals, and by the end of the season, I reckon they'll have more points won at home than any other side.



*'Injuries could
stop Ipswich'*

VINCE HILAIRE (Crystal Palace)

ON paper, at least, Ipswich are on a par with Liverpool. But there is one question mark against Ipswich and the other challengers — the ability of their squad to rival

the strength of Liverpool. Ipswich are ready to take the title if it comes down to 11 against 11. But whether they can still do it if they suffer injuries this winter, I'm not sure.





Sammy Lee (left) and Phil Thompson parade the League Championship Trophy around Anfield after clinching it for a second time last season. David Johnson (below) scores against Stoke City this season.



Every team has a crisis at some stage of the season. It's all down to whether they can find the strength to survive when key first team men are out.

Beattie and Hunter are available at the back, of course, but whether they'll be able to replace Gates and Mariner so easily, I'm not sure.

We went to Liverpool on the opening day of the season and entertained hopes of catching them on the hop. But they were as good as ever and were playing exactly the same way.

But despite that, I can't see the title race just being about Liverpool again this season. I think other sides have made strides, notably Manchester United, Aston Villa, who were on top in November, Everton and perhaps Nottingham Forest. Brian Clough's side might be a big threat now they're out of Europe.

Winners

I feel a clear leader won't emerge for a long time and even then, it could go right to the finish in a three or four horse race. But if I'm picking winners at the end, I'd say Liverpool will just shade it with Ipswich close to them. The extra players the Champions have available could be the decisive factor, because although Ipswich have 12 players as good as Liverpool's, I just don't think they've got 17 as good. And that is probably where the title will be won and lost.

Despite Villa's emergence, Ipswich could be the side to stop Liverpool's hat-trick. The hallmark of a successful side is winning when it doesn't play well, and that's what Ipswich did at our place. They took both points but didn't play anything like as well as they were capable of. But that's a trick Liverpool have been using for years, and it's encouraging for East Anglian eyes, that Ipswich have started doing that. Their day will come but I'm not certain it will be this season.



'Superb balance — quality players'

BRIAN HORTON (Brighton)

EVERYBODY keeps writing off Liverpool but we learned very quickly this season, that the Champions are as good as ever and capable of doing the hat-trick. We went up to Anfield believing that if we could keep it tight for the first half hour, we might be in business. But they destroyed us; we never had a chance. They just don't let you attack them at Anfield and quite honestly, their display that day must have been one of the best all-round performances I've seen, by an English club side.

Looking at them didn't convince me they're about to lose the title. But if they're going to, I suppose Ipswich are the side best equipped to take the Championship. They have a superb balance within their side and some quality players.

But Liverpool have so many advantages, one of the main ones being that their players have seen it all before, done it all in previous seasons. When the pressure is on, you have to fancy Liverpool above any other side. Experienced players have a clear advantage over those who are on the verge of success for the first time.



'Their strength in depth'

JOHN CRAGGS (Middlesbrough)

IPSWICH, Aston Villa or Nottingham Forest for the title this season? Don't you believe it. For me, there's only one team in it and that's Liverpool. We've played both Ipswich and Liverpool and I don't think there's any comparison between the two sides. I'm sorry if that's bad news for the Ipswich fans but I honestly believe they've got a long way to go before they rival Liverpool.

We played Ipswich at our place and tore them apart. They scored two good goals in the second-leg of a League Cup tie at Portman Road, but they still didn't look anything like Championship material. I don't think they're any danger to Liverpool winning the title; to me, the Champions are still out on their own.

Their whole squad fits in like a jigsaw. That's a clear advantage to them over Ipswich and any other side in contention. Villa, for example, have good youngsters but I don't think they're ready to challenge Liverpool's clear ascendancy. And, defensively, I don't think Ipswich are anything like as strong as Liverpool. That, too, will be a crucial factor in the winning of the title.

The home advantage Liverpool have is also a major consideration. So many teams go to Anfield and

I'd say Liverpool are playing the same way as last season. That steamroller that powers right over you doesn't look to have altered its style in any way! But what may have changed, is that they've got more players available for their squad — by that I mean stars who have had regular First Division experience.

Early this season, they had people like Steve Heighway, David Johnson, Jimmy Case and Alan Kennedy in the reserves for lengthy spells. Their replacements, players such as Sammy Lee, Avi Cohen and David Fairclough, were doing so well that they couldn't be dropped. That's a remarkable situation and such a bonus when you look ahead to the hard winter months.

Ipswich are a fine side but I don't think they can match that strength in depth.

For me, Liverpool are the favourites for the title but I don't believe it will be a two horse race like last season. Sides like Aston Villa, Everton, Manchester United and Nottingham Forest could be involved. At this stage, almost anything could happen.

are overawed that it's odds-on two points every time for Liverpool. Not many teams go there expecting to come away with anything so they seem almost invincible as ever at home.

Liverpool were second after 16 games this season, yet they made a comparatively bad start. They did just the same last season; starting sluggishly, yet hardly dropping a point in the last half of the season.

Formidable

It's my belief that this League title race will follow a similar pattern. I take Liverpool's formidable strength in depth to give them the title, through the hard winter months of January, February and March.

Liverpool are as good as ever and certainly aren't over the top as some people have said. We've faced both sides and realise that.

We lost 4-2 at Anfield just a few days after beating Norwich 6-1 at home. If that wasn't the perfect warm-up for a match at Anfield, I don't know what is, yet it counted for nothing.

Liverpool are different class and that's as true now as it was several years ago.

I know it is early days yet, but I am sure it will be Liverpool again.

League Cup

The Quarter-Finals are played next week and we predict the last four will be...

Coventry, Liverpool, Spurs, Man. City

LAWRIE McMenemy, Jackie Charlton and Brian Clough are three top League managers who have all had their noses put out of joint by Graham Taylor's Watford in this season's League Cup. Now the Second Division side from Vicarage Road aim to add the name of Coventry boss Gordon Milne to that ever-growing list.

Two years ago Watford reached the Semi-Finals as a Third Division side. This time they aim to go all the way to Wembley for the first time in their history — and it would take a brave man to put money against them.

Coventry have already accounted for Cambridge, the other giantkillers in this season's competition. They will have to be on top form to rise to the challenge again, although having disposed of Manchester United and Brighton in earlier rounds, they should be in a confident frame of mind.

Essential

Coventry seem destined for another season in the middle reaches of the First Division, and a good Cup run could be essential to maintain flagging interest.

They have never been past this stage of the competition, and if current standing is the only criterion, then Coventry should just scrape into the last four.

With the majority of League Championship challengers out of their way, Liverpool are now set to make their strongest bid yet for the only domestic trophy to have so far eluded them.

Once again the Quarter-Final draw has been kind to the Reds, giving them another favourable home draw. Bradford, Swindon and Portsmouth have all been taken care of at Anfield, and now it is the turn of Birmingham City to try their luck in front of the Kop.

Birmingham will certainly present Liverpool with their toughest test so far in the competition, and

remember they were the last team to win at Anfield, albeit as long ago as January, 1978.

But the bookmakers are not renowned for throwing their money away, and when they quote Bob Paisley's team as overwhelming favourites for the League Cup, you had better pay attention.

The all-London affair between West Ham and Tottenham at Upton Park should be a full-blooded clash of two sides eager to capitalise on their good starts to the season.

West Ham, of course, know all about upsetting the odds, and are keen to make a quick return down Wembley Way following their dramatic F.A. Cup success in May. Although their League Cup opposition so far has come from the Third Division, The Hammers flying start should serve as a severe warning for Spurs.

For their part, Tottenham are looking to prove themselves kings of London — a title nobody could dispute should they win this tie. Orient, Crystal Palace and old rivals Arsenal have all fallen victim of the Spurs revival in earlier stages of the competition, and a trip to Wembley would be a comparatively long trip to Spurs if they can maintain their winning ways.

West Bromwich Albion, having taken three games to overcome Second Division Preston in the Fourth Round, could be in further trouble when they return to Lancashire to take on a revitalised Manchester City at Maine Road.

A return journey to old stamping grounds will probably mean less to Gary Owen and Peter Barnes now that Malcolm Allison has made way for John Bond, and having blasted five past Second Division pacemakers Notts County in the previous round, City will be out to give further proof of their revival.

THE DRAW

Liverpool v Birmingham
Man. City v WBA
Watford v Coventry
West Ham v Spurs

Osvaldo Ardiles beats Arsenal 'keeper George Wood to secure Tottenham's place in the last eight.



'My team'



ALTHOUGH I've only been in the top class game for three years I've played under 11 different managers. Fantastic but true!

That must be some sort of record guaranteed to keep my name in soccer annuals and quiz books for many years to come.

Manager Number One was Dave Sexton, who signed me on associated schoolboy forms for Queens Park Rangers when I was a kid of 15.

I was no stranger to Dave, though. He was a friend of Dad's and had invited me along to training sessions at Loftus Road.

The morning he signed me on, Dave said: "I've every confidence you'll progress through the Rangers' ranks."

Dave fascinated me with his ideas on how the game should be played. He is still a soccer fanatic, a great disciple of the Continentals. While at Rangers he adapted their styles and training methods to suit the English First Division.

After a season in the youth team I left school. A few weeks later, in July, 1977, Dave took over as manager of Manchester United.

Skipper Frank Sibley, at the age of 29, took over to become, if I remember correctly, the youngest manager in the League.

Frank had been at Loftus Road since he was 16 and was Rangers through and through. He loved every inch of the club.

One of his first moves was to sign me on apprenticeship forms. "I played with your old man," he said. "If you become half as good as he was you'll do for me and Rangers."

He desperately wanted to do well for the club, but sadly things didn't go too well. In July, 1978, after a season which saw Rangers narrowly

miss relegation by one point, he quit.

Alec Stock, one of the most respected men in the game, took over as caretaker boss.

Dad had worked under him as a player at Rangers, but I didn't really get to know him that well.

I was still a reserve team player at the time and Alec restricted his responsibilities to the senior squad.

A few days before the start of the 1978-79 season Steve Burtenshaw left Everton to become the new manager at Q.P.R. He had previously spent four months in 1974 at Loftus Road as coach under Gordon Jago. But that was before my time.

Steve was a very strong character, his own boss.

As I recall, results weren't too good for Rangers at the start of the season and I was pushing hard for recognition.

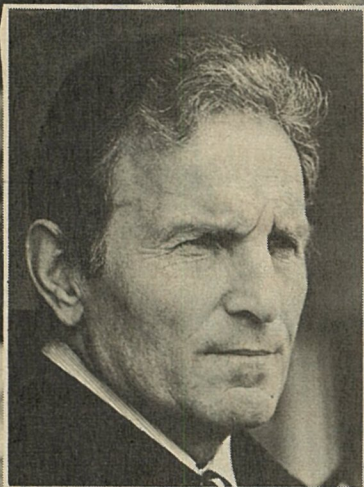
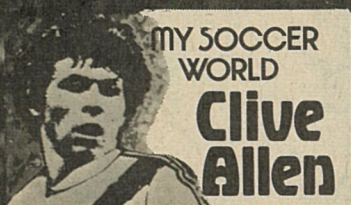
I was brought on as a substitute for my first appearance in first team colours against Chelsea on November 4th, 1978. We drew 0-0.

Rangers then went four or five games without a point and I felt confident of playing in one of our Christmas games.

But Steve didn't think I was quite ready. Naturally I was disappointed but his judgment proved right.

Steve brought me on gradually. The odd appearance as sub ...

of managers'



Dave Swindlehurst (right) goes close for Palace against Manchester City. Dave Sexton (above) and Ernie Walley (below, right).



travelling to away games to get experience and capture the atmosphere of First Division football.

After waiting for so long my full League debut came right out of the blue. On Friday afternoon, April 27th, 1979, after training, Steve pulled me to one side and said: "I'm going to give you your chance in our home match against Coventry tomorrow."

As you know I made a dream start to my career, scoring a hat-trick in our 5-1 victory.

Steve was sacked a couple of games later, after a 3-4 defeat at Leeds meant relegation.

Then sensation and manager Number Five. Just before we were due to kick-off our last match of the season against Ipswich at Loftus Road, chairman Jim Gregory

announced Tommy Docherty was our new boss.

The Doc had been in charge of the club 11 years previously, but only lasted 28 days. "I intend to stay a little longer this time," he said after watching us crash 4-0.

Most of the lads at Loftus Road warmed to the man who described himself as "soccer's most likeable rogue."

It was an apt description. One minute he was bubbling, jovial, one of the lads. The next hard and uncompromising.

I wouldn't describe him as a top coach, he left that side of the job to others. Tommy's strength was his ability to motivate and get the best out of players.

The Doc was great with the youngsters at Rangers, especially

Paul Goddard and myself. He encouraged us, gave us extended runs in the side and allowed us freedom of expression.

That freedom helped me to score 28 League goals in 1979-80 and Paul 16 to attract the attention of bigger clubs like Arsenal.

I was enjoying a rest during the last close-season when the phone rang. It was Tommy telling me Arsenal had made a bid for me and the club had accepted it.

You know the rest. I met Terry Neill and signed for The Gunners in a deal worth £1 million.

I can't say I got to know Mr. Neill because I wasn't at Highbury for very long. His assistant Don Howe took most of the training and seemed to decide tactics and coaching methods.

Mr. Neill's decision to release me just before the start of the season was a real shock. Apparently he didn't feel I would fit into the team's pattern of play.

Still that's history. I moved on to Crystal Palace and manager Number Seven Terry Venables.

It was another sad day when he resigned recently to take over at my old club Q.P.R.

Terry's tactical awareness has established him as one of the best coaches in the game. He's a tremendous organiser and motivator.

Ernie Walley, previously in charge of the reserves at Selhurst Park,

replaced T.V. and immediately dropped me from the side.

As you might expect, I wasn't too pleased with Ernie's decision, but understand he did what he thought was best for the team.

I was taken ill shortly afterwards and lost almost a stone in weight, so at the time of writing haven't really had much opportunity of working with Ernie.

As far as I know he's been given the job until the end of the season at least, so it's up to me and the rest of the lads to fight for him; to ensure the club draw clear of the danger zone.

Two points in our home match against an improving Manchester City side on Saturday (November 29th) will help that fight.

Apart from the eight League managers I've now played under, I mustn't forget my England Youth bosses Ken Burton, Johnny Cartwright and Brian Clough. Yes, I've even had the experience of Cloughie.

So that makes 11 — a whole team of managers. Twelve if you include my contact with Ron Greenwood.

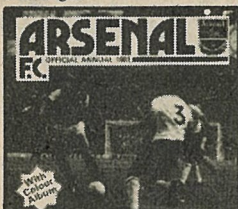
Each have left their mark. I've learned something from every one of them, advice and tips which will stand me in good stead for the rest of my career.

CLUB ANNUALS

**NEW
FOR
1981**



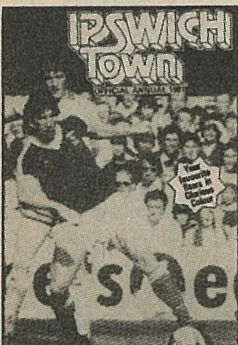
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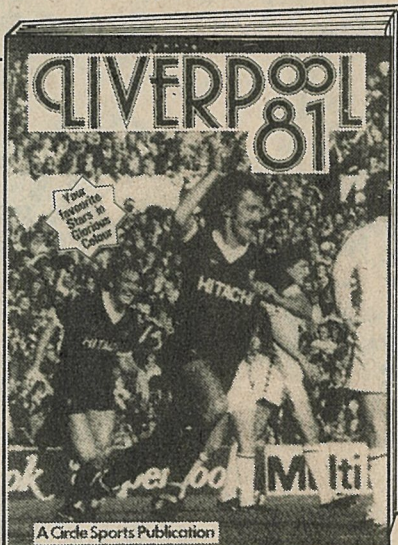


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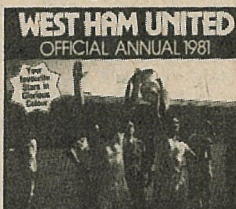
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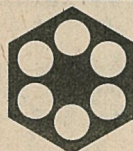


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VENABLES WAR Y OF TOO MANY CHANGES

THE extent of the job at Q.P.R. shocked even new manager Terry Venables. Once the fuss of Tommy Docherty's sacking and Venables' appointment had died down, Venables spent the first four matches weighing up the potential of his new squad.

His verdict was hardly complimentary to Docherty and the state he had left the club in. Venables admitted: "There is more work to be done than I first thought. There is much to be done and it won't happen overnight. The players don't seem at all well organised and I am certain they can do much better. One or two of them could do with losing weight; the overall fitness aspect could be picked up a lot."

Harsh words which will surely make disgruntled Rangers fans realise the size of the job Venables has taken on. But on the credit side, Venables is quick to point out two plus factors.

"The players seem very keen to do well and I'm certainly full of enthusiasm. The work should be enjoyable and it's the sort of challenge I like."

Rangers started life under Terry Venables with just two points from a possible first eight. And by the time they went to Grimsby for Venables' fourth game in charge, the changes had started to appear. Ernie Hovve recalled to the centre of defence. Glenn Roeder pushed forward into midfield and Barry Silkman signed from Brentford for £20,000.

Silkman, of course, was a Crystal Palace player during Venables' time at Selhurst Park. Clearly, Venables knew his man despite Silkman's poor consistency record at a handful of clubs.

Early draws at Derby (3-3) and Grimsby (0-0) and defeats to the Welsh clubs Cardiff and Wrexham, both by single goals, left Rangers struggling badly in the Second Division basement. But the view of most of the players was

Venables' arrival gave the club a huge lift for the future. Venables took Palace into the First Division and, in a moderate Second, there seemed little reason why Rangers should not climb out of their rut once Venables had organised things to his own liking.

But Venables refuses to put dates on his projected recovery plan for the West London club. "You cannot put magic figures down on paper and say things will be alright by a particular date. We hope to improve things in a couple of months but it may take longer — it could take less time. It's hard to say."

"If we can get some consistency, anything is possible. A run of wins could lift the club right up the table. But only time will tell."

Astute

Venables hits the nail firmly on the head in assessing just what's wrong at Rangers. Plenty of big name stars, lots of talent — but no success. Why? "We have some good players here but teams are all about blends," says Venables, one of the game's most astute coaches and tactical observers.

"To have a successful side they have to fit in and complement each other. That is one thing I shall be working hard on. But I cannot rush it. I want to see Tony Currie in the side and to see his influence and how the others respond to playing alongside him."

"There are departments which might need changing and players who need bringing in. But I don't want to write people off and make changes for changes sake."

Venables says the Rangers situation is "very similar" to the one he found when he first took over at Crystal Palace. "The first team needed reorganising and we got it straight after a while. I'm sure we can do the same here."

There's no doubt Venables has a real job on his hands at Loftus Road. One aspect, as much



as any, needs a rapid answer — how to get the missing thousands back through the turnstiles.

"Support is all about getting good results," says Venables, firmly. "The fans will come back if we start winning regularly and climbing the table. So that's down to us and how soon we can put things right."

The Crystal Palace affair, as it came to be known, is now past. Venables says he has forgotten it "professionally" but there is little doubt the scars of disappointment still fester. They will heal only with the passing of time, but success in his new role at Rangers will doubtless aid the recovery programme for Terry Venables.



Terry Venables (right) discusses the future with assistant-manager Allan Harris (centre) and George Graham. A lot is expected of Tony Currie (above).

THE Scottish FA recently received a very special request for two of Scotland's famous blue jerseys... from Prince Rainier of Monaco. The Prince wanted a jersey for himself and one for his young son, Prince Albert. Delighted SFA officials duly dispatched the jerseys to Monte Carlo... with the names of the Royal pair printed on them.

Leeds grounded

LEEDS United manager Allan Clarke has quickly impressed on his players that they must earn everything they get at Elland Road.

He really rammed home the message on the trip to Ipswich. Over the last few years Leeds have always made the journey to East Anglia by 'plane, but not this time.

Clarke told his side they hadn't earned the right to fly after getting walloped 4-1 at Sunderland the previous Saturday, and therefore had to go by coach.

The warning worked. Leeds got a point on the League leaders ground, and then went on to win their next two matches. Perhaps they can have their annual flight back now next year.

'Chris Hughton's big mistake'

SPURS boss Keith Burkinshaw reckons his brilliant young defender Chris Hughton has made a mistake — by plunging to play for the Republic of Ireland instead of England.

Chris qualifies for the Republic under the parentage rule and is already part of manager Eoin Hand's World Cup plans.

Says Chris: "I've no regrets about my decision. Soccer is a short career and you've got to take your chances while they are there.

"There is no guarantee I would have played for England — but I am actually in the Eire side. And I'm looking forward to playing for them in Spain in the World Cup Finals. I'm sure we'll make it."

But Burkinshaw says: "I told Chris at the time he made his decision that he was good enough to play for England. He's the fastest turning full-back in the country and it would have only been a matter of time before he won England honours."



MANAGER Colin Addison has been forced to look for new blood without causing too much of a stir at the bank.

He took Kevin Hector back to the Baseball Ground after a three-year stretch which covered Vancouver, Boston United and Burton Albion. But at 36, Hector is virtually twice as old as another of Addison's new signings — Glenn Skivington.

Skivington, signed for a small fee from Alliance Premier League side Barrow in July, forced his way into the Derby side after only four reserve team games. Equally at home as a central defender or in midfield, young Glenn looks set for a big future at Derby.

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



'Morris will fetch £1m'

BLACKPOOL'S flying winger Colin Morris could become one of soccer's £1,000,000 men in the future... that's the opinion of his manager, former England star Alan Ball.

Alan, who bought Morris to Bloomfield Road from Southend for £150,000 and Northern Ireland star Derek Spence, says: "Colin has everything needed for success — he's keen, he's got skill and he can score goals.

"I see him as a really big star of the future — in fact, right now he would be a bargain at anything under £1,000,000. But other managers need not bother — I've no intention of selling him. I want him to help put Blackpool back where they belong in soccer — at the top."

One top team who obviously agree with Ball's verdict are Nottingham Forest. Assistant manager Peter Taylor has watched Morris frequently this season.

Met magic

SPEAKING at the close of the all-London Final of the Metropolitan Police 5-a-Side Football Competition at Wembley Arena, Sir David McNee, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, proclaimed the tournament a triumphant success.

"Win or lose, those youngsters have set a marvellous example in effort, dedication and sportsmanship to all of London's youth. Not only was this competi-

tion a world record breaker, but it was also the largest, and certainly the most successful, community relations project we have ever undertaken.

"It's been tremendous fun, but the purpose behind it was always deadly serious. The sad fact is that too many youngsters commit too much crime. This competition has taken youngsters off the streets. It has provided them with an interest and a worthwhile contact with police officers, and that is invaluable."

Nearly 50,000 London children entered the tournament.



AUTHENTIC

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IN these days of falling attendances, there are plenty of clubs who would love the sort of support Newcastle are attracting... for reserve team games!

The gate for the recent Central League game at St James' Park against Liverpool was an astonishing 4,200.

It was bigger than every Division Four attendance on the same day except at Wigan and Lincoln. And it was also higher than five in the Third Division.

DAVID GEDDIS, the man Aston Villa signed to replace Andy Gray, is determined to fight his way back at Villa Park.

There's no question of Geddis asking for a move although big money signing Peter Withe and youngster Gary Shaw are the top striking choice.

He said: "I'm totally happy at Villa. I've settled well after living in two small towns, Carlisle and Ipswich. I love the big city atmosphere."

"When Peter Withe signed people started writing me off and in many ways that has taken the pressure off me. Now I have got nothing to lose."

Brewery pull out

FOLLOWING their annual review of the Drybrough Cup Competition for senior football clubs in Scotland, Drybroughs, the brewers, have decided not to renew their sponsorship of the competition in the current season.

Drybroughs' marketing director, Mr Iain Nelson, said: "Having taken many factors into consideration — including recent social and sporting trends in relation to our company image, and the problems of competition timing and positioning within the total football calendar — we have concluded that continuance of the Drybrough Cup sponsorship is no longer appropriate."

Overtime at Oldham

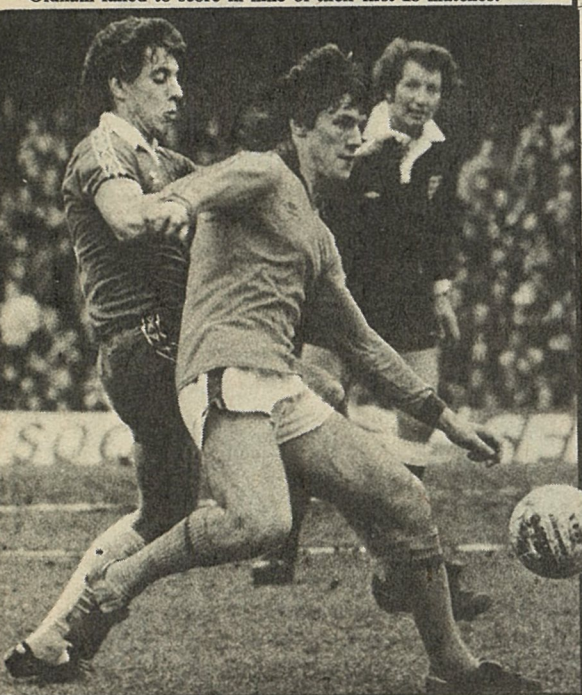
OLDHAM Athletic's shot-shy strikers have been asked to do overtime to improve their rate of scoring.

Simon Stainrod (below), Rodger Wyld and Jim Steel have been reporting to Boundary Park in the afternoons for special training sessions.

Manager Jimmy Frizzell is quick to point out that his strikers are not in "jankers".

"They know as well as anyone that the reason we have slipped down the table is because we have not scored enough goals."

Oldham failed to score in nine of their first 18 matches.



Behave—or else

THIRD DIVISION pace-setters Charlton Athletic have introduced a Junior Supporters Pass as part of their campaign against hooliganism. The pass is for fans, under 16 on August 1, 1980, who wish to gain admission through the reduced price turnstile at The Valley.

The rental of the passes is a nominal 50p per season. A condition is that the holder will behave himself or forfeit the pass.

"In an effort to encourage our junior supporters in their behaviour, it has been decided that those privileged to hold this pass will, upon production of the pass, be admitted to the ground at a price of £1," says Charlton.

This ruling has been effective from November 8. The price concession is also extended to pensioners.



Charlton fan Peter Loveridge was one of the first to take advantage of the club's new anti-hooligan pass system.

Soccer stars boost anti-drink campaign

COURAGE Ltd., are running a Christmas publicity campaign in their 6,000 Courage and John Smith's pubs in England and Wales. On 1,500,000 drip mats and 12,000 posters, members of the England squad encourage customers to "Think before you drink before you drive," and "Be sensible, be safe."

Andrew Ronay, Courage's Publicity and Promotions Manager said, "This campaign is part of Courage's responsible attitude to drinking and driving, and is deliberately designed to persuade their customers to be mindful of the dangers of drinking and driving during the festive season."

Briefly...

● Two of the longest serving players in the Midlands are John Wile (W.B.A.) and Mick Coop (Coventry City). They have both topped the 400 appearances mark for their respective clubs.

Coop made his 400th League appearance in the game at Spurs.

Wile, who is rated managerial material when he decides to quit playing, was a Jimmy Hagan buy from Peterborough United.

● Few clubs travel further in a season than Third Division Carlisle away in the North

West of the country.

Now they'll be doing it in the sort of style that few teams can match with the players travelling to away games in a new £60,000 luxury coach, complete with a video which will screen well-known feature films.

● Scottish striker Joe Jordan went to Belfast to receive his "Player of the Year" award, presented by the West Belfast Manchester United Supporters' Club.

Other present and past Old Trafford stars at the function were Lou Macari, Sammy McIlroy, Jimmy Nicholl and Pat Crerand. The Belfast fans named United 'keeper Gary Bailey as their "Young Player of the Year".

● Glenavon have opened a new programme shop at their Mourneview Park headquarters, in Lurgan, County Armagh.

● Jimmy Brown was still a teenager when he skipped Aston Villa to the Third Division title and he looked set for big things. Then his career went wrong.

Now he's back in this country, still a young 26-year-old, looking for a club.

● Thailand's entry on the official FIFA list of referees must be a candidate for having the longest name in football... he is a Mr Watana Pramassakhanasakolnakorn. Bet our TV commentators are glad he is not operating in Britain!

NEWPORT COUNTY have produced a quality book price £2.50, to commemorate a "Season of Triumph" in 1979-80. The book proclaims last season as the "greatest" in the club's history.

Alan Waddle's pledge

A STRIKER with plenty to prove — that's Swansea's Alan Waddle. The 22-year-old Geordie, sold by both Liverpool and Leicester, is out to show that he has got the talent to make it to the top.

Says Alan, who has played a major role in Swansea's impressive form this season: "I've got something to prove to people in football — and the best way of doing that is to keep on scoring."

"There is nothing I want more than to return to the First Division and show I can do it in the top flight. Luckily, we've got a good side at Swansea and, given luck, are capable of going up this time."

Topper Keelan

NORWICH City's long serving goalkeeper Kevin Keelan displays the O.B.E., he received from the Queen at an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Keelan is flanked by his daughter, Claudine, and friend, Sandie.



Lincoln's loss...

LINCOLN CITY allowed a good youngster to escape their grasp in centre-half Clive Goodyear.

The 19-year-old Goodyear — now keeping record £200,000 signing Mike Saxby out of the Luton side — comes from Lincoln and was on the Sincil Bank club's books as a schoolboy.

Goodyear, who joined Luton in October, 1978, has blossomed after being carefully nursed in his first 18 months at Kenilworth Road. He made his debut in April this year and, after forcing his way into the senior side in October, has been giving some commanding displays.



Peter Ward was signed by Forest from Brighton for £400,000. Now he must justify the faith Peter Taylor has shown in him.

Forest against Southampton on November 1 and looks more at home with every game. But what problems do the Forest mini-duo pose for the First Division's top defenders?

Arsenal's giant Scottish centre-half Willie Young believes that the Forest duo are a sign of the times.

Young said: "I probably speak for all central defenders when I say that we generally prefer to play against the bigger strikers, the likes of John Toshack, Derek Dougan and Joe Jordan. But times are changing and so is football.

"If you look around the League you will find less of the big target players than, say, five years ago. The modern striker has to be sharp, mobile and capable of pulling a defence out of position. The days of the big man standing in the box waiting for a high ball to knock down are fast fading.

"Down the road at Tottenham

they use Garth Crooks and Steve Archibald.

"Andy Gray and John Richards at Wolves are very sharp and mobile, Kenny Dalglish and Dave Johnson at Liverpool move all over the place. These sides don't use a battering ram player down the middle.

"Ward and Wallace will make it difficult for big defenders because they are quick and skilful and can turn you if you lose concentration. But teams will still knock in the high balls and put you under pressure. I would play against them the same way I would play against any forwards. Perhaps light-weight players like them find it difficult to break down a tight defence, but give them room and they will create problems."

Winter pitches and tight marking may combine to upset Forest's plans now that the running power and height of Garry Birtles no longer provides alternatives. But knowing Clough and Taylor it is more likely that Ward and Wallace will buzz and sting more often than they are swatted.

AT a time when £1 million can just about fetch a player capable of those mystical qualities, ball control and vision, Nottingham Forest threaten to unleash a veritable basement bargain on the unsuspecting First Division.

The sale of Peter Ward from Brighton to Forest for a reported £400,000 came as no surprise to those who became ultimately bored with the on-off transfer saga.

But what will take away a few breaths is the opinion of assistant-manager Peter Taylor who believes that Ward is only one step away from becoming one of the best strikers in the game.

It was Taylor who signed Ward from Burton Albion during his reign as Brighton manager. For a while it seemed that he had unearthed a pot of gold as Ward revealed definite qualities of natural goalscoring instinct.

This season, however, the boy who became the idol of the Sussex Coast fired too many blanks for the liking of Albion manager Alan Mullery, who seemed almost relieved to complete the deal.

Unpredictable

Forest unveiled their tiny-tot strike force of Scottish international Ian Wallace and the unpredictable Ward against Leeds at the City Ground on October 22, and after goals by Wallace and Ken Burns sealed a 2-1 win, Taylor said: "Ward tore Leeds apart. His speed, skill and eye for openings proved too much for them.

"People ask me why we play with two strikers, neither of whom tops 5' 8" tall. But if you were to spend your time looking for a really tall striker to complete the target-man and partner combination you could be looking for ever.

"There is a lot of nonsense talked about how tall strikers should be. The important question for any managerial team is... can this lad play? In the case of Peter Ward the answer is definitely 'yes'.

"In fact I am convinced that

Wee Ward and Wallace set new trend

when he moves from Brighton back to his native Midlands and settles down, he will make a lot of people sit up and marvel at his ability.

"We are more interested in the basic ability of our two strikers. And there can be no question that they pose nightmares for big defenders. Players with the qualities of Wallace and Ward will always get goals and always worry defences.

"I don't think people know just how good a player Ward is. It is just a matter of time before he settles into the Forest way of things, and then we will see him at his best.

"The fact that neither of these players happens to be a giant is neither here nor there. Ability is the key, not stature. And these players have the ability."

Ward scored his first goal for

Ian Wallace must adapt to playing without a target man to feed off following the arrival of Ward at Forest.



CHAIRMAN Mike Gliksten has called him: "The most exciting player we have had in my 25 years at the club."

Manager Mike Bailey says of him: "He is an extremely talented player who has fitted in remarkably well." To emphasise that point, he has already turned down an offer of £400,000 from an unnamed club.

At just 18-years-old Paul Walsh is the hottest property at Charlton Athletic since the F.A. Cup rested in the trophy cabinet at The Valley back in 1947.

Manchester United, Arsenal, Tottenham, Everton, Chelsea and West Ham have all sent scouts to check his progress, but the England Youth team striker remains remarkably level-headed.

He still lives at home with his parents, less than two miles from The Valley at Abbey Wood, South London. He has been with the club since the tender age of 12, and by the end of October had scored 11 goals to help Charlton to a record run of seven successive victories.

Attention

Not surprising, then, that the talented teenager has attracted so much attention from the bigger boys of the Football League. Yet, despite all the attention, Walsh insists: "I am happy where I am."

Happy he may be, but whether a club of Charlton's limited finances can afford to ignore the inevitable further offers remains to be seen.

In turning down that £400,000 offer, Gliksten runs the risk of upsetting the bank manager. But he is clearly genuine when he says: "Paul Walsh is the only modern day player I would drive 200 miles to see. I am determined to keep him at Charlton for as long as possible."

Walsh says: "Of course I am flattered to receive so much praise in my first regular season in the team, but I try not to take too much notice. I don't feel any

pressure to keep on scoring, because manager Mike Bailey has forged such a good team spirit that it doesn't matter who gets the goals as long as we win."

"After a good start, we fell away a bit, but now we are right back on song. I suppose we will have a couple more dodgy patches, but I think we should gain promotion."

"I didn't score in nine games last season, but my goals this term haven't been because I am playing at a lower level. In 1979-80 I was doing most of my work just inside the penalty-area, but through watching and working with Derek Hales, I have learnt how to be in the right place at the right time."

"The majority of my goals this season have been from inside the six-yard box, and a great many of them have come from Derek's crosses. He is an unselfish player, and he has made my job a great deal easier."

Cynics may point to the fact that Charlton's highly-priced forwards have not exactly set the First Division alight in recent seasons. Hales was sold to Derby in a big-money move, but even a subsequent transfer to West Ham failed to unleash the expected flood of goals, and now he is back at The Valley.

Mike Flanagan, who was signed by Crystal Palace for £650,000 in August of last year, has yet to justify that fee, and now people could be forgiven for asking whether Walsh can really be worth such a large asking price considering he has played less than half a season in Division Three.

"I have confidence in my own ability," he says. "And don't think I would be out of my depth in a higher Division."

"It is my ambition to play in the First Division — preferably with Charlton Athletic. If we gain promotion this season, which I think we should, then I will only be one step away from reaching that goal. Remember I am only 18. I am in no hurry."

HOT PROPERTY WALSH



Goals have flowed regularly this season for Paul Walsh (on the ball).

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



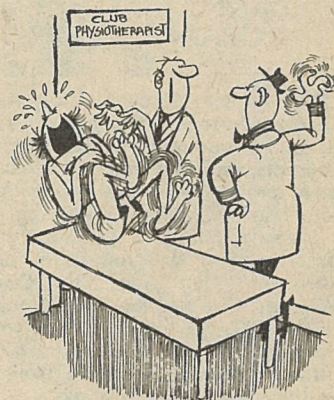
"Cor, what a supporters club. Want us to lend them some money so they can keep going."



This week Jimmy Greenhoff, Blackpool's signing from Manchester United, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



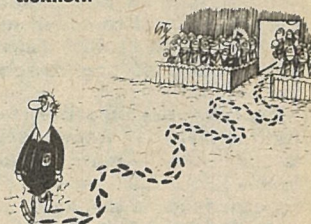
"You may be worth £1 million on the transfer market but when it comes to decorating..."



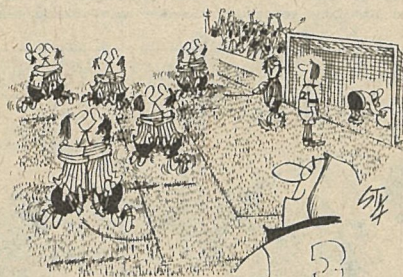
"I can't do much with this one, boss. He's so ticklish."



"Let's get this clear. You're supposed to kick the ball."



"Looks as if the ref went to a party last night."



"It always happens when I score. Unleashes a great emotional outburst."

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'Scotland's dream of glory has become a nightmare'

Phil Neal (dark strip) scores Liverpool's second goal in their 4-0 hammering of Aberdeen.

Tartan Talk

DANNY McGRAIN



THE door to European glory was closed on Scotland in only the Second Round of the big three tournaments, and that means we have no dream of glory to tide us over the long winter months until March.

I always think that if you can get past the first two rounds in the European Cup and the Cup-Winners' Cup and the Third Round of the UEFA Cup then at least you have something to look forward to through these dark months, even if you take a Quarter-Final exit.

But as it happens Aberdeen, St Mirren and Dundee United unfortunately took the hint from Celtic and now have no further interest in the international competitions.

I think all the Scottish clubs went out because of one reason... inexperience.

That includes ourselves, for the truth is that apart from myself and Bobby Lennox — more of him later in this Tartan Talk — we were short on experience at that level, experience that we still don't have.

And never was the necessity of experience better illustrated than at

Anfield where Liverpool, European veterans, tore poor Aberdeen apart.

Aberdeen didn't look a shadow of the side they are week in week out in the Premier Division and the great Battle of Britain became a non event.

Because of injuries they had to bring in youngsters and with their new change strip they didn't even LOOK like Aberdeen. And on top of all that Liverpool hit peak form, playing better than they have in ages. That third goal was sheer magic.

The 4-0 result was a kick in the teeth for Scottish football, but it is hardly the end of the world. We should learn our lesson and redouble our efforts to do well in Europe.

Not that it means we have to forget the players. The stars of St Etienne for example, who showed the exit of St Mirren in the UEFA Cup, were only playing in first gear in the first-leg at Love Street. These sort of players just flick a switch and change their style for Euro games.

However the important thing is that all Scottish clubs should be better for what happened... otherwise we are wasting our time.

Now the strain is on the interna-

tional side to do well in the World Cup and make up for these disasters. And surely now for once and for all the people who cry out for a Scotland team made up entirely of home based players will shut up. Just remember it was Messrs Dalglish, Hansen and Souness who destroyed Aberdeen.

Scotland has a population of only five million. The truth is that we have had more success in football than we have any right to deserve.

Legend

Finally my salute to a guy who just happens to double as my best pal and a football legend.

Bobby Lennox has quit playing to take over as reserve team coach at Parkhead from Frank Connor, who has left to take over as manager of Berwick Rangers.

'Lemon', whose 293 goals is a post War scoring record for the club and who was the last of the Lisbon Lions to retire, played for Celtic for 20 years. He played throughout the remarkable run of nine successive Championships under Jock Stein and won ten caps, one of which was in that great 3-2 win over England at Wembley in 1967.

More than any other player Bobby Lennox was the model professional whose attitude to the game was something which should be set in gold and shown to every youngster who even thinks about kicking a ball in earnest.

He has been an outstanding servant to the club over the years, and it is good to know that his great experience of the Scottish game will still be with us at Celtic in his new capacity as coach. We couldn't have a better teacher.

Now if we could only persuade him to buy the boys a drink... not that there is any truth in the rumour about the wee man having short arms and deep pockets!

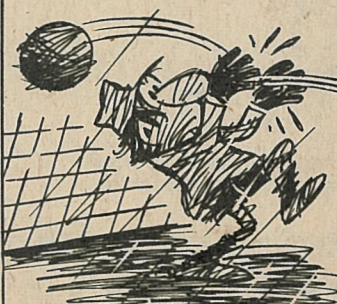
See you in two weeks...

Danny McGrain

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN TALK BY RANGERS' DEREK JOHNSTONE

NOBBY

EVER HAD ONE OF THOSE DAYS WHEN NOTHING GOES RIGHT...



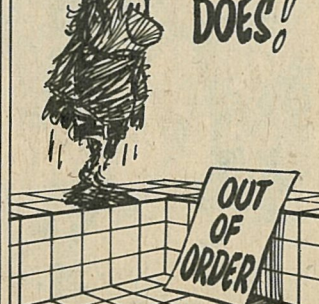
WITH ONE DISASTROUS MISHAP FOLLOWING ANOTHER?

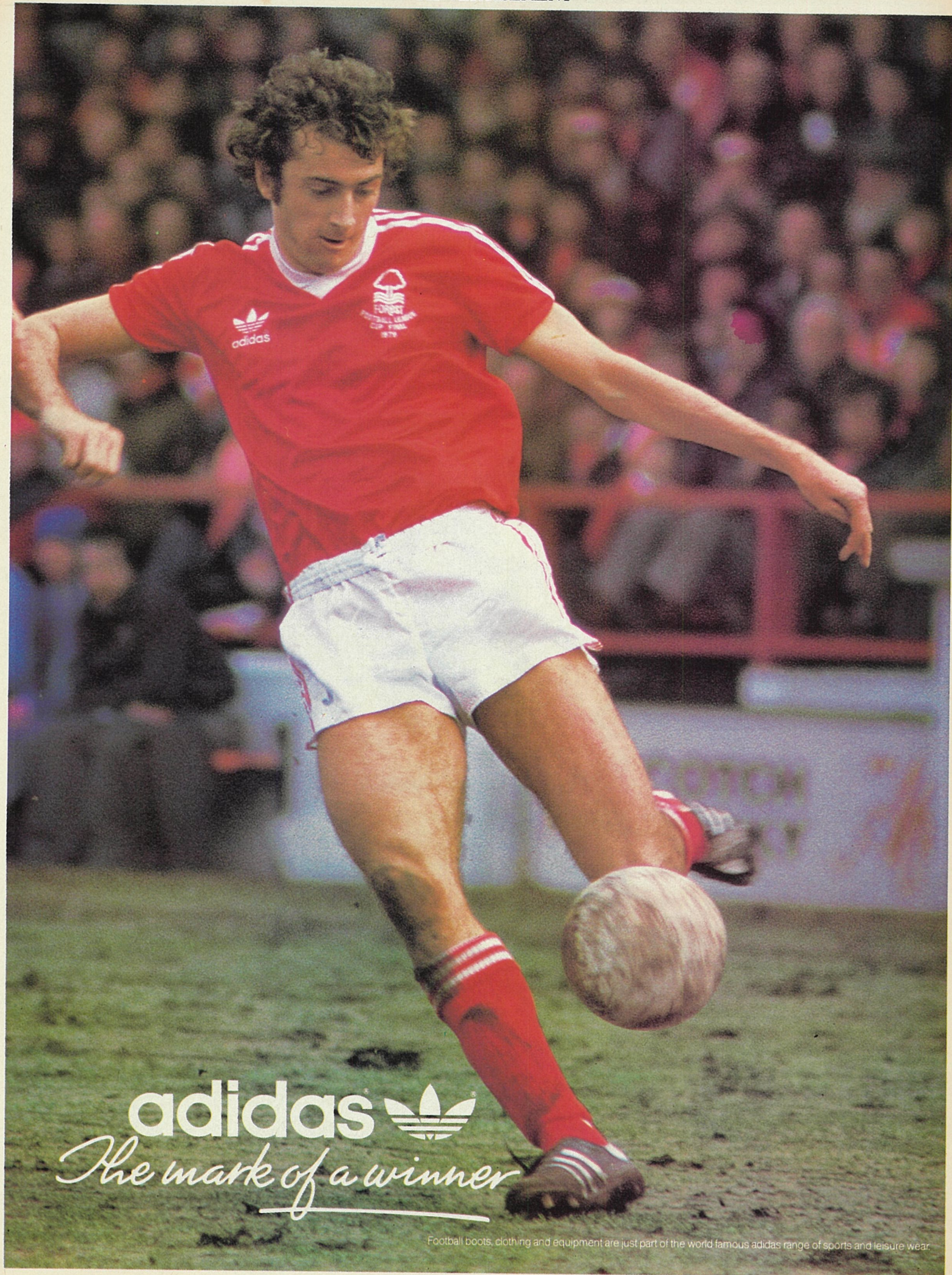


AND JUST WHEN YOU'RE FEELING IT CAN'T GET ANY WORSE...




ALL OF A SUDDEN IT DOES!





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Newport County

BACK ROW (left to right): David Williams (trainer/coach), David Gwyther, Richard Walden, Grant Davis, Gary Plumley, Len Ashurst (manager), Mike Dowler, Dave Bruton, John Relish, Neil Bailey, Jimmy Goodfellow (trainer).
FRONT ROW: John Aldridge, Steve Warriner, Bobby Ward, Tommy Tynan, Keith Oakes, Steve Lowndes, Howard Goddard, Kevin Moore, Nigel Vaughan.



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

BY BILL DAY

IT WAS perhaps inevitable that Newport County would fall away a bit this season after enjoying the most remarkable passage in their 68-year history.

Only 'superhuman' efforts from Len Ashurst's team could have maintained the searing pace they set in their glory winning season of 1979-80.

It was clearly too much to ask from a team that has made rapid strides in recent seasons.

Yet three successive home victories at Somerton Park, a ground nestling in the foothills of the Welsh valleys, encouraged the Gwent club to believe they can draw away from the Third Division's relegation

zone by Christmas. Newport made it a hat-trick of home wins at the end of October when they disposed of Fulham, Mark Kendall saving an almost certain equaliser from Tony Gale to give County a narrow 2-1 verdict.

Their problem this season has been to recapture the thrilling goalscoring momentum which carried them to promotion from the Fourth Division the previous season, the Welsh Cup, and a place in Europe.

Liverpool-born John Aldridge cracked in 14 League goals in 1979-80, and Newport's little midfield player Nigel Vaughan, a local product, was no less impressive with 12 League goals, five from the penalty spot.

Aldridge was again on the mark to help send Fulham spinning to defeat on October 28 but by and large Newport found goals harder to obtain against stronger and more competitive defences in the Third Division.

This season they had scored only eight goals in their first seven home League games, although their 6-0 thrashing of Haugar of Norway put them through to the European Cup-Winners' Cup Quarter-Finals.

But even their faking start to this season did little to obscure memories of one of the most thrilling chapters in their history.

With local industry laying-off men and the steel industry of South Wales threatening all sorts of unpleasant actions, Newport County brought a smile to the faces of their long-suffering fans.

John Relish and Dave Bruton illustrated the joy of that promotion-winning moment at Walsall last season when they swigged back large quantities of champagne, having played no part in the game through injury. "It doesn't matter, it's the greatest moment of our careers," they echoed in unison.

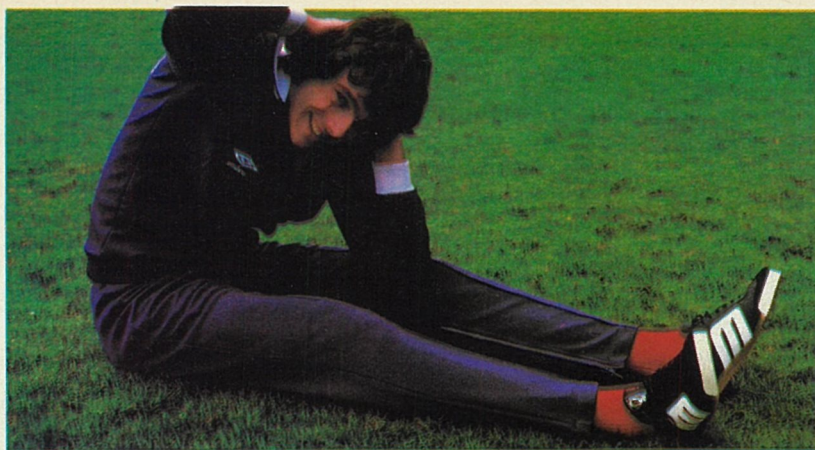
And so it was. For Newport have not had much to celebrate since the club formed in 1912.

Newport played one season — 1946-47, the first after the War — in Division Two but finished bottom and were relegated, and they had never gone beyond the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup (1948-49).

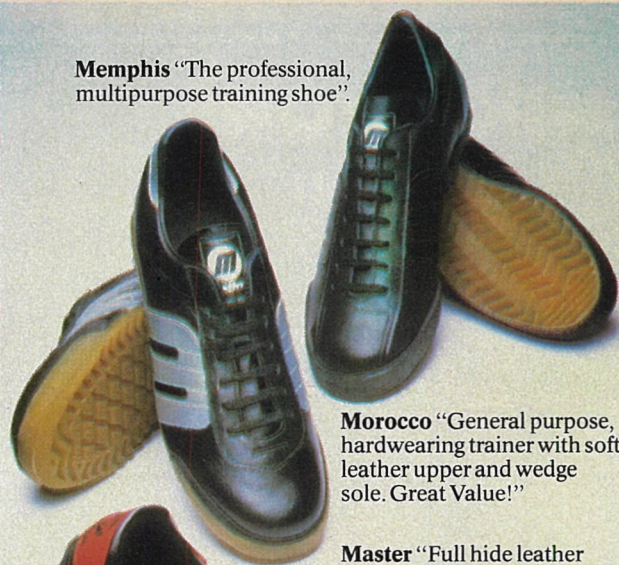
They made three successive re-election applications between 1968-71 and although some of the gloom was lifted under Billy Lucas, their financial situation declined and Jimmy Scouler, Brian Harris and Dave Elliott left the club in rapid succession.

A new board was formed, Colin Addison became manager and since 1976-77 the club has made steady progress in an area better noted for its rugby prowess.

Addison left to join West Bromwich Albion in May 1978, and Len Ashurst, his successor, has carried on the good work.



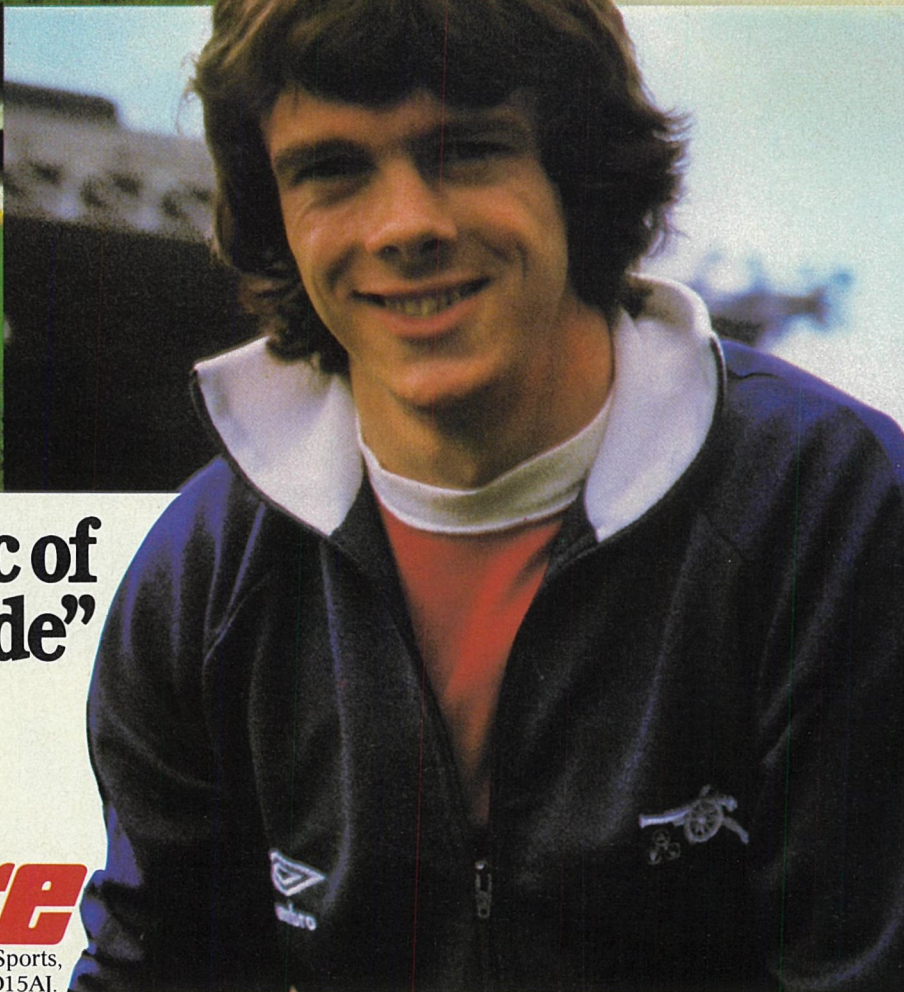
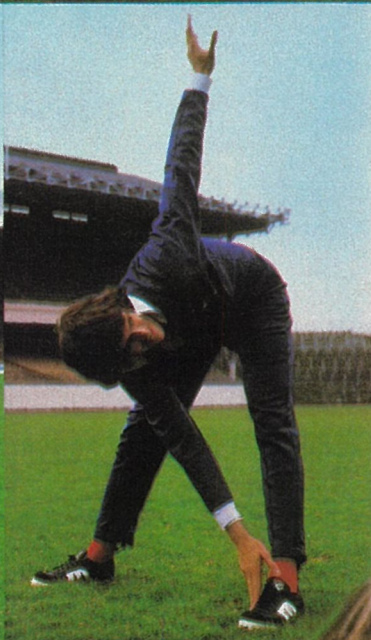
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SUKAN/REUSCH 119	Dry	Black grooved foam rubber	White polyurethane	As palm	Y.S.M.L.	£11.50
SUKAN/REUSCH 124	Wet, Dry	Blue smooth foam rubber	White polyurethane	Blue grooved foam rubber	Y.S.M.L.	£11.95
UHL 027	Dry	Black grooved foam rubber	Silver polyurethane	As palm	Y.M.L.	£12.50
UHL 025 ZOFF	Wet, Dry	White smooth foam rubber	Black PU velvet	White 3 level foam rubber	Y.M.L.	£12.95
CLEMENCE PRO	Wet, Dry	White smooth foam rubber	Red PU mixfibre	White grooved foam rubber	Y.S.M.L.	£14.95
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SUKAN AJAX JERSEY	Green, yellow, sky	30"/32" £7.95, 34"/36" £9.95, 38"/40" £10.60, 42" £11.25
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SPECIAL REPORT

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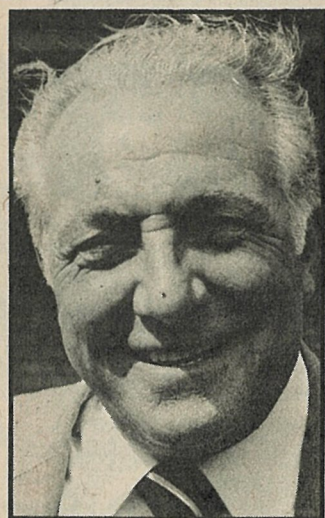
Those who visit League grounds often do so in fear of football hooligans. There are fewer goals to enjoy, and the general standard of play is not up to the level enjoyed 20 or 30 years ago. So what can be done to solve the problems which severely threaten the game?

The 92 League club chairmen — or their deputies — met at Solihull, West Midlands, on October 26-27 at a special seminar to discuss visionary proposals which, once motioned, will now be put before an extraordinary general meeting of the Football League in January.

SHOOT looks at the proposals and, in an attempt to ascertain their strengths and weaknesses, we talk to the people who matter.

First, **THREE POINTS FOR A WIN**. This has been the system used by the Isthmian League since season 1973-74 and as Walthamstow Avenue secretary Norman Moss explains, it is a success.

"We scored more goals, 87, than any other side last season, and



'Three points for a win could make the game more defensive'

HARRY HASLAM

finished second. If only two points had been awarded for a win we would have finished third.

"It encourages a team to go for goals instead of sitting back once a draw is on the cards.

"The extra point certainly prevents boring play from the visiting sides and creates

enormous interest among the fans."

SUNDAY SOCCER got a lot of publicity, although the proposal by the seminar was to allow clubs to play their matches any time between Friday evening and Sunday.

Soccer on the Sabbath is not new. In the early months of 1974 about half the League clubs experimented with the idea because of a nationwide energy crisis. If it proved a success, it certainly did not last. So why give it another go?

Friday nights are not the most popular for supporters although a handful of clubs such as Southend and Tranmere play then to avoid clashing with Saturday attractions.

The original idea for Saturday afternoon football stemmed from the time when the majority of spectators worked on Saturday mornings. Then, after clocking off

at around lunchtime, next stop would be the local soccer ground.

Sunday football, and more of it on Friday nights, the seminar believes, would encourage more families to go to matches. But the main reason for the lack of family groups at soccer is **HOOLIGANISM**. And this subject featured very strongly on the agenda.

Stiffer sentences and fines for the culprits will be demanded, and the League are to seek improved financial support from the Government which, hopefully, will help towards the building of all-seater stadiums.

TRANSFER FEES, forever spiralling, were not dealt with in the manner many had hoped. No ceiling on fees was considered, but it is suggested that they should be paid up within 12 months, with a down payment of at least 50 per cent.

It is proposed that the **DURATION OF HALF-TIME** should be increased by five minutes, so giving clubs 15 minutes in which to put on some form of entertainment and allow supporters more time to get refreshments.

On the subject of the **VOTING POWER OF CLUBS**, the seminar suggested that all 92 should decide re-election issues rather than the First and Second Divisions and the six associate members made up from the Third and Fourth Divisions.

On other issues the six associate votes should be increased to eight and the three-quarter majority — which over the years has baulked so many proposals — should be reduced to two-thirds.

TELEVISION COVERAGE, the seminar decided, should be left alone until the current contract

expires in 1983. And there was a proposal to do away with **RED AND YELLOW CARDS** in the disciplining of players on the field.

These were the basic suggestions put forward at the seminar. The outcome was encouraging, as Football League secretary Graham Kelly confirms: "I am reasonably confident that most of the proposals will be operative next season.

"We will, of course, come up against problems. At present, we cannot legally charge admission to grounds on Sunday, but other major sports, such as cricket, have got round this.

"The strong feeling is that Sunday play could be a major step in bringing fans back to the game and giving football a family atmosphere."

But Hector Monro, Minister for Sport, has warned soccer's bosses: "To have large-scale Sunday football in this country

DAVE SMITH, chairman of the United Supporters' club, is delighted with the proposals.

"I think the fact the chairmen got together to discuss the problems show that they are at last doing something positive," he says.

"Luckily, at Old Trafford, we do not have problems in commanding a good gate. So playing at any time other than Saturday afternoons would not be feasible for us. But it would be a good idea in the lower Divisions.

"Perhaps the days or times of kick-offs could be staggered with, say Division Three playing on Sunday mornings, and Division Four kicking-off in the afternoon.

"But Sunday football could upset local residents, so the only way it could be done would be to ban visiting fans. Then the families might be encouraged to come back. These two things have to go hand in hand, in my opinion."

The future

would mean changing a law which has stood for 200 years.

"I have reservations about Sunday football because of the inevitable policing of the games, and sympathy for people who live close to the grounds involved."

So these are the ideas put forward by the club chairmen. The reactions from those who matter in the game make interesting reading. . . .

The proposals were made mainly to benefit football as a whole. But the man on the terrace is the person who will be directly affected. So **SHOOT** went first to Manchester United, the best supported club in the country, to discover the fans' view.

Smith also supports the proposal to increase the half-time period.

"It's got to be good for the fans. When there's a crowd of 20-30,000, ten minutes just isn't long enough to get a cup of tea.

"But additional entertainment must come *before* the game. There are many possibilities. Penalty competitions, police dog displays, model aeroplane acrobatics. They could all be used to entertain and keep any unruly fans occupied."

But **HARRY HASLAM**, manager of Sheffield United, suggests a cautious approach to the proposals.

"I will never knock any idea that is brought in to benefit our game, but you have to look at these

No more yellow and red cards?





Stiffer penalties to combat hooliganism

of football

suggestions critically," warns Haslam.

"I have doubts about three points for a win. Once a side has got a goal, it could put down a blanket defence and make the game even more stupid than it is already.

"Playing soccer at any time over the weekend could prove difficult for the club themselves. And I can't see players wanting to play on Sundays."

Haslam is against a ceiling on transfer fees for, as he points out, they are as much a part of football as any other business transaction.

"A limit on fees is not practicable," he says. "We will always have transfers and the fees have kept the game going. If a small club can get £50,000 for a player, they may not see the money straight away, but it would save some club from going on the rocks.

"The directors are the men who have to come up with the money, so if they want 50 per cent down, or any other ruling over the payment, it is up to them."

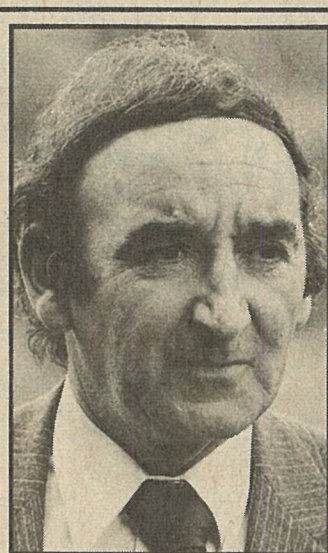
Haslam believes that televised soccer can be good for the game — at a price.

"Watching six or more games on the box over the weekend helps me a great deal. I can keep abreast of teams all around the country. But the TV companies are still getting the action too cheaply.

"TV soccer may keep some people away, but bear in mind those who can't make it to the game anyway, through age or disability."

The end of red or yellow cards is a proposal with which Haslam agrees totally.

"Let's face it, the system was only introduced to help foreigners. I think that waving cards around



'Let's have a transfer ceiling'

PETER SWALES

provokes the fans. Once a yellow card is shown, they are baying 'off, off'. A gentle word to a player while his name is going in the book would get the fans off his back for a start.

"I know the media don't want this because it is sometimes difficult to see if a name has gone in the book. But what harm can be done by a Press man asking a referee if a player was booked or not? Surely it breaks down barriers which need opening."

Haslam favours the proposed

changes in voting procedures at League meetings. "The directors are the men who are directly involved in the voting, so if they believe that these new measures are best, we can have no complaints."

Oddly, for a man who was the first chairman to authorise the purchase of TWO million-pound players, Steve Daley from Wolves and Kevin Reeves from Norwich, PETER SWALES, of Manchester City, would like to see a ceiling put on transfer fees.

Swales, an F.A. councillor, says: "Not only would I welcome a limit somewhere in line with the £500,000 that operates between European countries, but I would like to see cash aid on the nail. I don't have to support the present system. Manchester City just play the rules as they are."

Swales, chairman at Maine Road for seven years, does not favour a ban on televised football in the near future. He says: "We have a deal with the TV companies that has three years to go and that is an end to it.

"Advertising on shirts is bound to come but for the present we have to accept the deal we've made. That doesn't prevent us starting to negotiate the new one."

Swales added: "It is obvious that the biggest problem is hooliganism. We must all be in favour of any measures designed to combat that."

Finally, we talked to a player. JOHN HOLLINS, Arsenal's 'elder statesman' and former midfield ace at Chelsea and QPR, agrees in principle with most of the proposals.

"Soccer on a Sunday is all right by me. A lot of people have said that players wouldn't want to give

up their Sundays, but I wouldn't mind. When we play in midweek, our social life suffers, so playing on Sunday instead of Saturday would suit me. I already spend my weekends with my family during the week!"

John believes that three points for a win would not affect the game a great deal.

"We go out to win every game, regardless of the points on offer. The extra might act as an incentive for some clubs, which must be good for the game.

"A 15-minute half-time break could work both ways. If you've had knocks, another five minutes would give the physio precious extra time to treat them.

"But, on the other hand, if you were giving a side a hammering, a longer break would benefit them and not you. But, I agree, it would be better for the fans.

"If these suggestions work for the good of the game, we can have no complaints. It remains to be seen if the changes can be applied to the situations we come across every week in our League programme."

It is obvious from the reactions of those involved in the game that the seminar has produced ideas that can put football back on the right path.

We can't wait for that extraordinary meeting in January, when words can be turned into actions that will give football the kick in the pants it has needed for a long, long time.



'Playing on Sunday suits me'

JOHN HOLLINS

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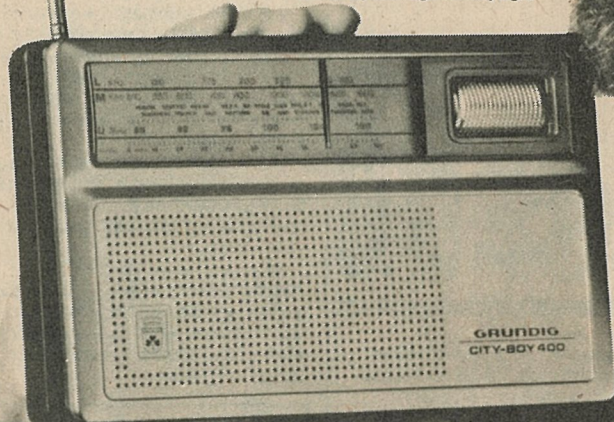
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SEPTEMBER 15th: Cosmos' boss Hennes Weisweiler announces in New York his desire to sign Schuster. But after three weeks of negotiations, the German midfielder, is unable to rejoin his ex-Cologne boss due to U.S. Federal regulations governing fees paid for foreign signings.

October 2nd: Barcelona's Danish international striker Allan Simonsen states that he's "demoralised" by the constant rumours that he's to be dismissed

THE SCHUSTER STORY

BERND Schuster. Aged 20. Blond. Ten times West German international. The Cologne midfielder was a relative unknown until he produced two sensational performances in West Germany's European Championship triumph. On that flimsy basis, Spanish millionaires Barcelona clinched Schuster's signature even though Hans Krankl and Allan Simonsen were filling their quota of two foreign internationals. Barcelona is not one of the most tranquil clubs in the world, and Schuster's signing really put a match to the powder-keg. Here's a blow-by-blow account of one of the craziest transfer stories in the modern game.

bearing fruit, and two Barcelona directors travel to Cologne to finalise the deal.

October 15th: Talks break down as Schuster insists on a short contract with several clauses unacceptable to the Spaniards.

October 16th: Both parties finally sign a deal that links Schuster with Barcelona till June 30th, 1984. The transfer fee is £875,000. The player will receive £100,000 per season tax-free. Plus £850 per month salary. Plus bonuses. Plus free

HAVE BARCELONA BERND THEIR BOATS?

and replaced by Schuster. The Spanish club's directors claim the rumours are "malicious and unfounded."

October 6th: The atmosphere after Barcelona's third successive League defeat is so bad that there's an emergency board meeting. Manager Kubala's report highlights the lack of a leader in midfield. The directors announce a campaign to improve the players' morale, but simultaneously

accommodation. Barcelona president Josep Lluís Nuñez phones team manager Kubala, giving him Schuster's phone number and telling him to speak to the player. Kubala, who knows nothing about the signing of the player that he doesn't want, angrily throws the piece of paper away. Allan Simonsen arrives back from Denmark's World Cup game against Greece to be faced with the news that he's probably out. A meeting of the Barcelona squad results in solid support for Simonsen and Krankl and total rejection of the signing of Schuster. At an emergency board meeting, the directors instruct Kubala to choose whether Simonsen or Krankl is for the chop. Kubala maintains he's happy with both; doesn't know much about Schuster; and will *not* make a decision. Vice-President Nicolau Casaus openly announces "the manager's duty is to work with the players we give him, and not to stick his nose into the signings we make."

October 19th: Schuster arrives in Barcelona.

October 20th: The German begins training but, ineligible for Barcelona's UEFA Cup confrontation against (of all people) Cologne, he's sidelined by Kubala who insists on maintaining Krankl and Simonsen in the first team until Schuster is eligible for European football.

October 22nd: Barcelona beat Cologne 1-0 in West Germany in the UEFA with a goal schemed by Krankl and Simonsen. German supremo Herr Neuberger says they won't give Barcelona official clearance for Schuster unless they guarantee the player will be released for ALL internationals.

October 26th: Barcelona lose 3-1 at home to Real Betis. Barcelona still can't play Schuster as the West German F.A. haven't given clearance.

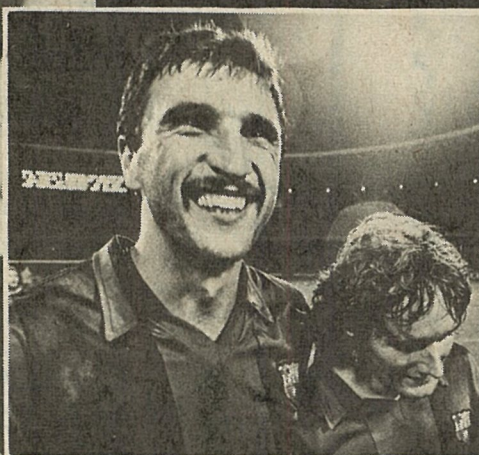
October 30th: The West German F.A. finally give clearance for Schuster's transfer. Barcelona will release him for all internationals, but not the Copa de Oro in Uruguay over the New Year.

November 2nd: At last, Schuster makes his debut for Barcelona and helps the Catalan club to a rare away win, 1-0 against Hercules.

instruct their technical adviser Helenio Herrera to open serious negotiations with Cologne for the transfer of Schuster.

October 9th: Barcelona vice-president Joan Gaspart states in a radio interview "the club is totally happy with the presence of Krankl and Simonsen in the squad," and that "there are no foreign signings in the offing."

October 10th: Allan Simonsen, still very upset by rumours that he's unwanted, receives a



Happier times for Hans Krankl (left) and Allan Simonsen at Barcelona. Austrian international Krankl has made way for Schuster.

telephoned offer from an agent claiming to represent Nottingham Forest. Allan demands time to think it over, and Forest temporarily halt their moves for Brighton's Peter Ward while Cloughie and Taylor work out all the new angles.

October 14th: Herrera's negotiations in Germany are



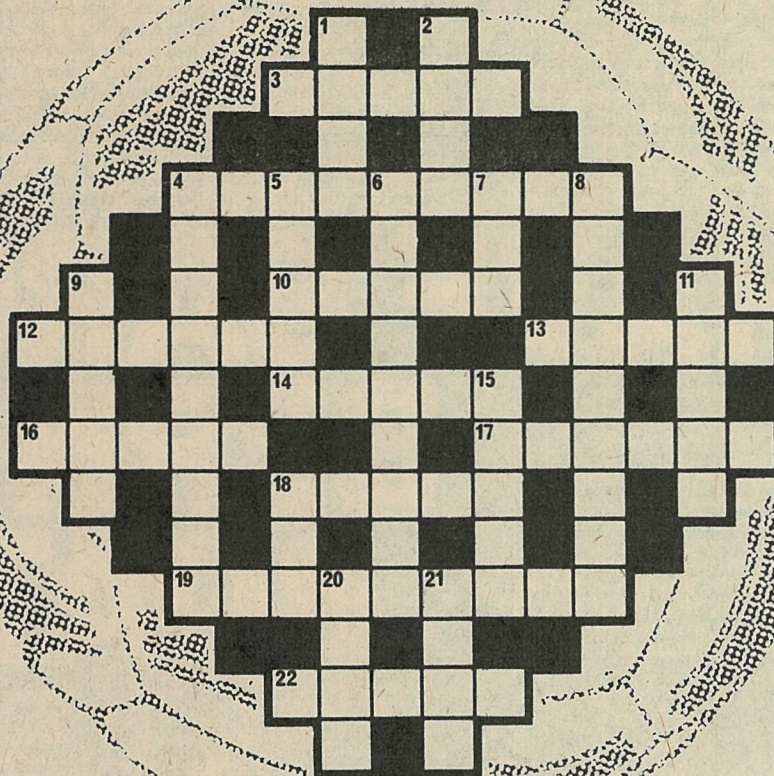
ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

- (3) Phil —, Southampton striker. (5)
 (4) Nickname of St. Mirren (3 & 6)
 (10) Hold firmly. (5)
 (12) Stage in ascending or descending scale. (6)
 (13) Following. (5)
 (14) Use five letters found in BRENTFORD to make a word meaning "dressed". (5)
 (16) — Hilaire; Crystal Palace striker. (5)
 (17) Name which can be used to describe the mindless people who cause trouble and violence at matches. (6)
 (18) Weather conditions which can make the playing surface dangerous. (5)
 (19) Ron —, England manager. (9)
 (22) Record of matches played, or to be played, for instance. (5)

DOWN:—

- (1) David —, Luton Town striker. (4)
 (2) — Moses; W.B.A. mid-field player. (4)
 (4) Tiered accommodation at the ground. (9)
 (5) Ardent. (5)
 (6) Sunderland striker. (4 & 5)
 (7) Short sleep. (3)
 (8) Bramall Lane is in this city. (9)
 (9) Cyrille —, W.B.A. striker. (5)
 (11) Adrian —, Stoke City mid-field player. (5)
 (15) Same again! (5)
 (18) If Leeds, Hartlepool & Newcastle give LAW; what do Fulham, Coventry & Wrexham give? (3)
 (20) — Hand, Eire team manager. (4)
 (21) Peter —, Nottm Forest striker. (4)



ANSWERS ON
PAGE 52

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The Buzz is back in town



Drew Busby (above, left) scores for Morton against Rangers at Cappielow.



DREW Busby, the tireless mid-field player who started his senior career with the now-defunct Third Lanark, returned to Scottish soccer this season after his spell in Canada with Toronto Blizzard.

Morton were the lucky club to fix up the man who is known as 'The Buzz' and the move from manager Benny Rooney is already paying handsome dividends.

"He's a great player to have in your side," says the Greenock manager. "He oozes experience and helps all the younger players around about him.

"Look at our team ... it's packed with young kids. Our longest serving player is right-back Davie Hayes — and he's only 27!

"In his first League game for us he helped us to a 2-2 draw with Rangers at Cappielow. In fact, the Ibrox men had to rely upon a last minute headed goal from Colin McAdam to give them a point.

"I couldn't have asked for anything more from Drew in that game. He was everywhere in the team, taking and making passes, looking for space and helping out his colleagues.

"When he was needed up front he ghosted into a position to slam in our first goal after a corner-kick from Andy Ritchie hadn't been cleared.

"Yes, I know all about Drew Busby, that's for sure. Remember, we crossed swords more times than I care to remember out on the playing field when we were in

opposition.

"I was always impressed by his marvellous enthusiasm for the game. He is a good professional. He takes the knocks and simply gets on with his game. He'll do a great job for Morton."

Busby, who has always maintained that he doesn't care how he scores goals just so long as they cross the line, says: "It's nice to be back and Morton made me an offer I couldn't turn down.

"When you watch this team in action you see many good things, talented and gifted young players with an awful lot to offer.

"I've been told the role I am expected to play and I am determined not to let anyone down. I've never been a shirker and I'm not going to start now."

Another player who will surely welcome Busby to the engine room of the Cappielow side is former Player of the Year Andy Ritchie, the Morton maestro who will never be famous for his work-rate.

Combination

Earlier in the season Andy pledged: "It's all down to me. I haven't been playing as well as I can and I'll have to get things right out on the pitch."

The combination of the gutsy, hard-working Busby with the elegantly-skilled Ritchie is an intriguing one. They could be the inspiration behind Morton's fight to prove they are good enough to win something.

Last season they reached the League Cup Semi-Final before eventually losing 2-1 to Aberdeen. That came as a bitter blow and Morton didn't really recover their best form again.

Now Rooney's men are one year older and wiser. Drew Busby, who has also played for Airdrie and Hearts, has never won a major honour in his soccer life. He wants to remedy that fact immediately.

Promotion or the sack for Smith

SOUTHEND manager Dave Smith has put his head firmly on the block. Smith, keeping his job at Roots Hall despite relegation to the Fourth Division last season, has taken Southend to the top this term.

And Smith, one of football's honest characters, says: "If I don't take us straight back I don't think I'll deserve to keep my job. Football managers are regularly getting the sack, so if I don't come up with the goods this season, I'll be on my way and probably deservedly so."

You can't accuse too many football club managers of dishonesty, when you hear Smith talking like that. And Southend responded to Smith's own brand of direct chat by hitting the top of the Fourth Division table.

Smith said: "It was a good start and it should have been. We're good enough to be a Division higher, and we should never have been relegated in the first place. You can make excuses about injuries and the food poisoning bout which laid us low. But at the end of the day, people only want results — from players to directors to supporters.

"Last season is best forgotten. I couldn't believe we had been relegated until I saw it in black and white. But now we've got to make sure we return because one thing is certain — we are good enough."

Southend's confidence was high after playing West Ham and Spurs in pre-season friendly games at Roots Hall and 15,000 fans saw them. Southend played well in both games and Smith says: "We gained a bit of credibility back from our supporters for the way we played in those games."

"We built on the experience of playing top sides and it has stood us well this term."

Smith insists he has the squad he needs to win promotion.

"We've got the right players, it's just that we didn't gel for a variety of reasons last season. This time, I hope it'll be different.

"We have got the players to succeed and I feel we've probably got the reserves, too. We beat Brighton Reserves twice in the early weeks of the season and they had several experienced performers.

"Our first team has four local lads and seven players whom I bought. But the reserve side has 11 players who have come through our youth policy at the club and that gives me immense pride in what we've done here.

'Loyal'

"I'm hoping the local people will appreciate what we've done. I was hoping to get an average crowd of 5,000 this season, but we have had quite a few gates in excess of that figure. And they will remain loyal if we can continue being in or around the promotion race."

Southend may be favourites to go straight up this season, but much can happen. But Smith accepts that people don't want excuses. "At a board meeting at the end of last season, I could tell the directors didn't want to hear extenuating circumstances. They just saw we'd gone down and that is the way football is.

"I am confident we will clinch promotion; I know that the players feel the same way. I wouldn't be worthy of my money if I didn't get them up this season.

"Everybody's head is on the chopping block. We have nothing to gain and everything to lose this season. Everybody expects us to win promotion at the first attempt, and there will be no excuses if we do not live up to those expectations."



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1

A defender on the penalty spot attempts to kick the ball when it is near the head of an opponent. Should you award (a) a penalty, (b) indirect free-kick or (c) take no action?



2

When taking a substitute's name you realise he is the same player that you sent off last match. Should you refuse permission for the player to take part in the game?



3

A defender in the penalty-area uses his hip to charge an opponent off the ball. Should you award (a) a penalty or (b) indirect free-kick?



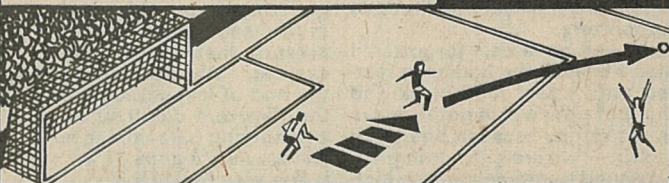
4

A free-kick has been awarded to the goalkeeper in the six-yard area. He picks the ball up and puts it on the six yard line and then kicks it. Is he correct?



5

A goalkeeper throws the ball to a team-mate who plays it before it clears the penalty-area. Should you (a) take no action, (b) award an indirect free-kick or (c) a penalty?



ANSWERS

1. Indirect free-kick (b). 2. No. 3. A penalty (a). 4. Yes. In my match between Swindon and Rotherham I had given a free-kick to Rotherham in their goal area. I then pointed out to Graham Brown, their keeper, that he can now pick the ball up from where the infringement took place and put it on the six yard line. 5. Take no action (a).

SO far this season we've played two of the newly-promoted clubs in League games — and failed to beat either of them.

We lost 2-0 to Leicester City at Filbert Street, drew 1-1 with Birmingham at St. Andrews, and this Saturday we're away to Sunderland at Roker Park where we know it's going to be difficult for us to come away with two points.

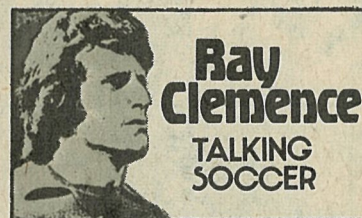
Against Leicester, Liverpool looked anything but Champions, and in the words of our straight-talking manager Bob Paisley, "just didn't compete." We were suffering from a severe dose of complacency, something which afflicts all great teams when they lose sight of the fact that hard work, not reputations, wins matches.

Leicester, a young team full of enthusiasm, took advantage of our lethargy, giving us a jolt that re-motivated us for our bid to retain the title.

A subsequent string of poor results by Jock Wallace's side, confirmed my view that a lack of experienced "old heads" will find them struggling to keep their First Division status.

Whereas we deservedly lost to Leicester, we should have beaten Birmingham after going in front from a Kenny Dalglish goal. Instead, we found ourselves hanging on to a point following an injury to striker David Johnson which caused him to be replaced by Avi Cohen — normally a defender — a hamstring injury to Jimmy Case which reduced him to being a "passenger", and an equalising goal from Brum's Frank Worthington.

Sunderland began the season brightly, even leading the table at one stage, but a goal-drought has caused manager Ken Knighton and his assistant, Frank Clarke, to ring the changes up front. "Pop" Robson, still remarkably fit at 35, has been brought back into the side on



Ray Clemence
TALKING SOCCER

'TWO HARD~





'Birmingham — the last team to win at Anfield'

TO~BEAT PROMOTED SIDES'



Sunderland's away following helped boost the attendance at Arsenal this season.

Birmingham's Pat Howard (left) shrugs off Ray Kennedy to help his club to a 3-2 victory in January, 1978.

several occasions. "Pop", who once finished a season as the First Division's top scorer, is still a big menace in the penalty-area.

Sunderland have so many things in common with Liverpool. For instance, a tradition of winning trophies, and a brand of attacking football instilled by a crowd every bit as fanatically dedicated as our own Koppites.

Like the Anfield faithful, the Roker Park supporters refuse to tolerate defensive football and insist on a positive go-for-goal policy.

There's no way the Sunderland team will sit back on Saturday and invite us to go at them, hoping we'll over-extend ourselves and leave gaps at the back which they can exploit.

For the first 20 minutes or so we'll be under the hammer, which means we'll probably have to adopt the tactic we use in away games in European competition: to play pos-

session football and take the sting out of their play.

As frustration sets in, so the crowd noise will diminish — the signal for us to switch to the offensive and apply the pressure on Sunderland.

It's no secret we'll be out to win. Unlike previous seasons, the competition for the top spot in the table is so intense that winning at home and drawing away is insufficient.

'Sunderland's fans are as fanatical as ours'

Not that we at Liverpool have even succeeded so far in avoiding dropping points at home. In fact, at the time of writing we've drawn three times at Anfield, the last against Nottingham Forest.

The goalless draw with Brian Clough's team followed our much-publicised return game with Aberdeen in the European Cup, billed as a battle for the unofficial British club Championship, and I'm convinced an adverse reaction to our tremendous 4-0 win over The Dons was responsible for our disappointing display on the Saturday.

On that same Saturday, Ipswich Town, who had travelled during the week to Czechoslovakia to play in the U.E.F.A. Cup, only managed to draw against Southampton at The Dell, after leading by two goals at one stage in the first-half.

Conversely, a mid-week game can often stimulate a team into pulling off a shock a few days later — such as Aberdeen's headline-hitting 2-0 away win over Celtic at Parkhead.

By an amazing coincidence, Liver-

pool are drawn to play another promoted side, Birmingham, next Wednesday at Anfield in the Quarter-Finals of the League Cup.

So far we've avoided First Division sides, which can be a mixed blessing, as teams from the lower Divisions invariably raise their game against us.

Bradford City, our first opponents, beat us 1-0 at their place, although we gained revenge by winning in the return leg at Anfield. The next two Rounds, like this Quarter-Final, were single game affairs, in which we met Swindon and Portsmouth, both at Anfield, and beat them 4-0 and 4-1 respectively.

Distinction

Now we're fortunate to be drawn again at Anfield, only this time against a team from our own bracket, Birmingham City. How many readers are aware that The Blues from St. Andrews have the distinction of being the last side to win at Anfield?

The fateful day was January 21st, 1978, when Gary Emmanuel, Keith Bertschin and Trevor Francis —

before his move to Forest — scored a goal apiece to beat us 3-2.

Man of the Match for me was their 'keeper, Jim Montgomery, who turned in an inspired display to deny us the equaliser.

Apart from the desire to win the only domestic honour that has so far eluded Liverpool, there's another important reason for reaching Wembley. The club, feeling the financial pinch in this period of recession, needs the revenue in order to meet massive running expenses. As it is, there's a strong likelihood Liverpool will not be able to afford to field a fourth team next season!

I'll close by quoting a letter I received from a regular reader, Denise Common of Fazackerley, Liverpool 10, a local lass who obviously follows my career very closely. A real morale-booster, I've stuck it up on the dressing-room wall alongside my kit.

"Ray Clemence is too modest to mention it in SHOOT, but the game against Portsmouth at Anfield was Ray's 50th Football League Cup-tie for Liverpool. He is the first player ever to reach this milestone for the club. It was his 176th Cup-tie for the Reds and he is the only player in the club's history to appear in 50 ties in the F.A. Cup, League Cup and European competitions. Who knows — perhaps Ray will be playing in yet another Cup Final at Wembley this season!"

I'll drink to that, Denise. Milk, of course!

Ray Clemence

GOAL-LINES

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All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Peter Rapaport of Woodthorpe, who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

DON'T PASS THE BUCK, TOMMY

★ As an ardent Chelsea supporter I was interested in — and bewildered by — the criticisms of his former club made by QPR's Tommy Langley (below, hoops) in a recent edition of SHOOT.

For three years I travelled the length and breadth of the country following Chelsea with no greater wish than to see Tommy score one of the sprint-away goals in which he specialised.

For the first two of those years he obliged regularly — but last season Langley's inspired moments became rarer and rarer.

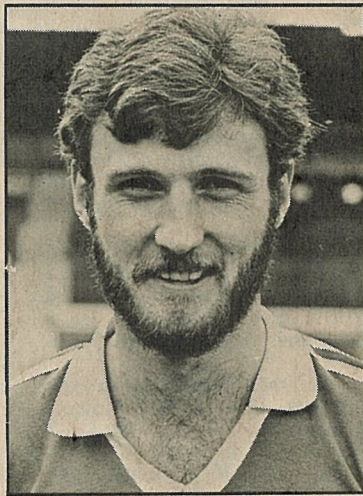
In fact, his whole game declined in calibre alarmingly.

Unlike Tommy, however, I would suggest that this was due not so much to the inadequacies of the players around him (as he implied) or even to the tight control over spending that restricted Geoff Hurst from strengthening the squad at Chelsea. Nor was his lack of form due to the style or system that Chelsea played to.

Instead, I suggest that Tommy's problems were more personal, and of his own making. He misleadingly claimed in SHOOT that he missed much of the season through injury — in actual fact he played in nearly 40 League and Cup games — scoring only ten goals (ironically the number that his replacement in the Chelsea team, Colin Lee, has scored before the end of October!).

With Chelsea storming towards the top of the Second Division after a poor start, and QPR embedded in the relegation zone with seven defeats in the first third of the season, perhaps Tommy Langley is tempted to reflect on his decision to walk out on Chelsea because he would "have a better chance of First Division football next season" with their close rivals.

● The Second Division promotion race is very open — but certainly QPR don't seem to be amongst the contenders.



Thanks, Garry

I WOULD like to thank Garry Birtles for all the enjoyment he gave me as a Forest player.

Before moving from Nottingham to London I used to go every week to see Forest. Garry was like a fairy story. A reserve team striker at the start of 1978-79, a European Cup-winner at the end of it.

Forest must also be praised for turning Garry from a reserve to a £1m. player in just two years.

Good luck at United, Garry Birtles.
N. MERCER,
HACKNEY.

● Garry's had an indifferent start with United, but he's too good a player to struggle for long.

Pen Pal

I'D like to correspond with fans of English clubs.

HORACIO BABINI,
VIA DXLL'ASTRONOMIA 31,
00114 ROMA,
ITALY.

Pen-pals

I'M a collector of souvenirs, especially photos of players and teams. I'd like to exchange with fans from all over the world. I can write in Dutch, German or English.

RODNEY GEIJSEN,
L. STRINGERLAAN 60,
2033 TD HAARLEM,
HOLLAND.

I'M an 18-year-old boy, and support Feyenoord, Manchester United and Celtic. I would like a pen-friend in Britain.

VICTOR FRENKEN,
KOEKOESTRAAT 17,
5931 LR TEGELEN,
LIMBURG,
HOLLAND.

Change offside law

EVERYONE has heard so much about lack of entertainment in the game at the moment and one of the most attributed aspects to this is the offside laws.

It must be said that all teams use the tactic, some far more than others, as a secondary defence.

However, when some people say the law should be banned altogether, I have to disagree. If this happened teams would place a striker on the edge of the area to hang around and wait for the ball, without playing any other part in the game.

I have pondered over the problem for some time and the best solution, in my opinion, would be to say that a player cannot be offside if the ball is played to him in the opponent's half.

This would allow strikers more room in which to move, stop the defences rushing out and thus bring more entertainment to the game.

TIMOTHY PARKER,
HORSELL.

● I'm against tampering with the rules. Players don't want too many changes — and I've seen plenty of outstanding games this season, offside law or not.

Internationals at Ibrox

I CANNOT understand why the S.F.A. don't consider Ibrox Stadium suitable for Scotland's home matches. When the stadium is completed at the end of the season it will be Britain's finest all-seated ground.

Now that the government have pulled out of the Hampden project, the money left available will not be enough to bring the park up to the fine standards of Ibrox.

Surely if the comfort of the fans is to be considered, then Scotland must play in Scotland's top stadium, regardless of who owns it, be it Queen's Park, Rangers or even Celtic.

GORDON RENNIE,
GLASGOW.

● True, but I wonder how Celtic's Scotland fans would react to going to Ibrox.

Extend First Division

PEOPLE keep saying the League season is too long and that the First Division should be operating with fewer clubs.

I believe the season should be longer and Division One should be increased to 30 teams!

But in my plan one campaign would be split over two seasons. The 30 clubs would play 58 games each, 29 one term, 29 the next.

As well as giving the desired object of less football we could give an extra eight clubs First Division gates.

A bonus would be that less fashionable clubs like Norwich and Coventry who might make a good start to the season, but fall away, would have the chance to qualify for Europe at the halfway stage.

ANDREW FLETCHER,
PONTYPRIDD.

● You must have some sort of death-wish on the game!

Ask the Expert

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Points

What is the highest number of points scored by a club in each of the four English Divisions?

PAUL MURIOS,
CAMBERLEY

● In the First and Second, Paul — out of a possible 84 points — it's 68 by Liverpool in 1978-79; and 70 by Spurs in 1919-20.

In the Third and Fourth — out of a possible 92 — it's 70 by Villa in 1971-72; and 74 by Lincoln in 1975-76.

Draws

What is the highest number of draws in the Football League on a single day?

NICHOLAS GEDLING,
LEWES

● As far as I can trace, Nicholas, it was the 22 on 13th October, 1962.

No one hit the jackpot on the Pools that day!

On 18th September, 1948, nine of the 11 First Division games finished all-square — a record for any Division in a single day.

Birthday win

I'd like to know how my favourite team, Liverpool, fared on the day I was born — 14th January, 1967?

DEAN WALKER,
BIRMINGHAM

● They won 1-0 in a First Division game at Sheffield Wednesday, Dean.

But it wasn't one of Liverpool's years — they finished the season in fifth place, nine points behind Champions Manchester United.

SHORT PASSES

● Dave Mackay, and then Allan Brown, were the last two Forest managers before the Clough-Taylor duo took over.

(IBRAHIM WAKA, Malawi)

● Arsenal's first Football League game was a 2-2 home Second Division draw with Newcastle on 2nd September, 1893.

(PAUL WILSON, Sheerness)

● England have won two, and Yugoslavia three — with five draws — in their full internationals since the last War.

(TOM RADEVSKI, Australia)

● Rotherham's first-ever League match was a 1-1 Division Two draw at Lincoln on 2nd September, 1893.

(ALI OMAR, Rotherham)



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LEICEST



BACK ROW (left to right): Neil Grewcock, Dave Buchanan, Mark Goodwin, Peter Welsh, Kevin MacDonald, Alan Lee, Gary Lineker, Paul Edmunds

MIDDLE ROW: Ian MacFarlane, Larry May, Alan Young, Mark Martin Henderson, John O'Ne (manager)

ER CITY



(asst. manager), Billy Gibson, Wallington, Steve Humphries, Ill, Geoff Scott, Jock Wallace

FRONT ROW: Derek Strickland, Pat Byrne, Andy Peake, Tommy Williams, Jim Melrose, Everton Carr, Bobby Smith, Ian Wilson

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by BILL DAY

LEICESTER'S RACE AGAINST TIME

L EICESTER City's plight near the bottom of the First Division is in sharp contrast to the success their manager Jock Wallace has enjoyed in the past decade.

And his impressive record suggests that if anyone can steer the Filbert Street club free of the relegation zone in the next four months, it is he.

If he fails in his task it will be a rare blemish on an otherwise outstanding managerial career at club level which bears comparison with that of Paisley and Clough.

Leicester fans can take comfort from Wallace's record as a boss. A picture hangs in his office of an outstanding Rangers team he twice led to the Scottish 'grand slam' of League Championship, Cup and League Cup.

He flirted with success for the first time as an unknown player/coach in the winter of 1967 when a confident Rangers side left Glasgow with the intention of knocking the stuffing out of Berwick Rangers in the Scottish Cup.

Rangers lost 1-0. The man behind Berwick's success that day was Jock Wallace, just launching a new career as coach after keeping goal for Airdrie and WBA.

Advantage

Rangers never forgot the disgrace of that defeat. Indeed, they turned it to their advantage by appointing Wallace manager.

The big man with the broad Scottish accent worked wonders at Ibrox, restoring the club to its former greatness and helping them steal some of the glory Celtic had cornered.

His decision to accept the job at Leicester in May, 1978 shook the Glasgow club but turned out to be Leicester's saviour.

Wallace's crowning moment in English football came two years after his arrival when Leicester won promotion to the First Division last season. Only Mark Wallington, the goalkeeper, survived from the team Jimmy Bloomfield built before moving to Orient.

Wallace banked everything on youth to win the Second Division title last season ahead of more fancied clubs such as Birmingham City and Sunderland.

Paradoxically, it is his passionate belief in the running power of young legs that has arguably blunted Leicester's progress this



season.

Critics suggest that the Leicester line-up is too young, too inexperienced, too reliant on lung capacity. It needs a shot of experience, they say.

Wallace sold more than 20 players and bought 17 at knock-down prices after his arrival.

He astounded Second Division managers by sending out a team packed with raw teenage talent. But few could quarrel with the success of his ploy, which led to Leicester's promotion.

Jock Wallace remains unshaken

even after the disappointments in the early months of this season. "If you are to taste success, then it's the character of the team and the character of the men. You can only be successful if you have got the ability in any chosen profession.

"We've faced trials and tribulations," says Wallace. "There are two main points to mention. First is that slowly and surely we are developing a pool of players which gives us a bit of strength in depth. Mark Goodwin and Geoff Scott have done a good job since coming into the side and I've re-introduced Gary Lineker and Dave Buchanan who have also done well.

"The other point is that we stop giving away daft goals. If it wasn't

for giving away goals we would be in a much healthier position. We must learn from our mistakes."

Leicester were given a most demanding start on their return to the top, facing meetings with the First Division's top five clubs of 1979-80 in the space of nine League games at the start of the season. It surprised no one when they lost four of these prestige encounters against Ipswich, Manchester United, Forest and Arsenal.

Had it not been for their shock 2-0 defeat of mighty Liverpool, with goals from Andy Peake and Martin Henderson, the Filbert fans might have doubted the club's ability to survive with the elite.

Leicester City's young team grow in stature everytime they play. If they sink it will not be through want of trying, simply that time ran out before they matured to the level necessary to make a mark in one of the world's most demanding Leagues.

Jock Wallace, for one, will not entertain the thought of relegation.

ABOVE: Martin Henderson, Leicester's talented young striker.
RIGHT: Manager Jock Wallace.

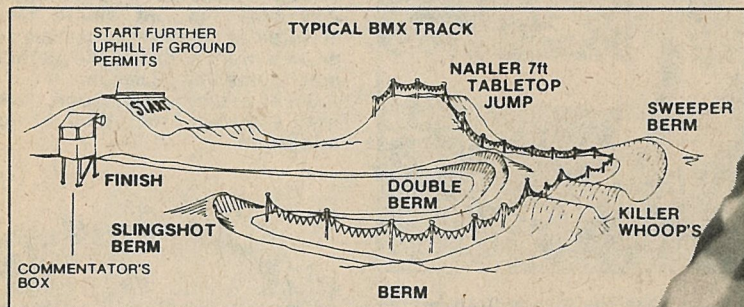
HONOURS

First Division Runners-up: 1928-29. Second Division Champions: 1924-25, 1936-37, 1953-54, 1956-57, 1970-71, 1979-80. Runners-up: 1907-08. F.A. Cup Runners-up: 1949, 1961, 1963, 1969. Football League Cup winners: 1964. Runners-up: 1965. Record last season: Second Division: Champions. F.A. Cup: Third Round. League Cup: First Round. Club shop: Leicester City Promotions Club Shop, City Stadium, Filbert Street, Leicester.

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BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, November 29th

Aston Villa v Arsenal

ARSENAL have only won one of their last 12 League games at Villa Park — in December, 1966 when Frank McLintock scored the only goal — and it has never been a particularly happy hunting ground for The Gunners.

Villa can point to no less than seven League encounters in which they hammered as many as five goals past the Arsenal defence on this ground, including two such games in the last four seasons — 5-1 in October, 1976 when Dennis Mortimer, Ray Graydon, Andy Gray (two) and Brian Little were their scorers, and that remarkable clash in April, 1979 when The Gunners were leading at the interval with a goal by Frank Stapleton but ended up 5-1 losers after Gary Shelton had got a second-half hat-trick and John Deehan also netted a couple.

On the other hand we must never forget that this particular fixture provided one of the most remarkable individual scoring feats on record. That was in December, 1935 when Arsenal's lion-hearted centre-forward, Ted Drake, scored all of his side's goals when The Gunners won 7-1.

Sunderland v Liverpool

THIS will be their 58th League meeting at Sunderland and with such a long history of matches there have been many interesting and exciting games.

Two real thrillers were those in January, 1907 and December, 1930. The earlier game resulted in a 5-5 draw, and was the first time as many as ten goals had been scored in a League game at Roker Park.

In the other game during the first-half, Sunderland were leading 4-1, but with the fog closing in fast in the second-half Liverpool came within an ace of snatching a point with centre-forward Jimmy Smith scoring twice in the last 13 minutes. The final score was a win for Sunderland 6-5.

Coventry City v Nottingham Forest

POOLS punters who go on past results would be sure to include this game among their Treble Chance selections, for ten of the 18 League clashes between these two clubs at Highfield Road have resulted in draws. Of the other eight games Coventry have won four and Forest four.

In their last four meetings at Coventry the home side has managed only one goal — that netted by Ernie Hunt in a 1-1 draw in September, 1971.

Ipswich Town v Middlesbrough

ANYTHING can happen in football, but the way Ipswich Town are playing Middlesbrough will have to produce something special to improve on their record of three wins and two draws in 14 League games at Portman Road.

However, the maximum number of goals Ipswich have been able to score against these particular visitors in any of the last eight games at Portman Road is two, while Middlesbrough managed a 3-0 victory there in 1975-76 when Alan Foggan, Dave Armstrong and John Hickton (pen) beat the home defence. Indeed, Armstrong scored again the following season when Middlesbrough won 1-0. Three more recent results have been 1-1, 2-1 and 1-0.

LINE-UPS... RESULTS... SC

Monday, October 27

Fourth Division

MANSFIELD (1) 2 (Parkinson (pen), Allen)	
NORTHAMPTON (0) 0	3,560
PORT VALE (0) 0	
BOURNEMOUTH (1) 2 (Massey, Morgan)	3,009
STOCKPORT (0) 0	
HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 (Newton, Houchen)	2,006

Tuesday, October 28

World Cup Qualifying

(Group Two)

FRANCE (1) 2 (Platini, Zimako)	
REP OF IRELAND (0) 0	In Paris 46,300
France: Dropsy, Battison, Specht, Lopes, Bobis, Larios, Tigana, Platini (Pettit), Rocheteau, Lacombe (Zimako), Six.	
Rep of Ireland: Peyton, Langan, Lawrenson, Moran, Hughton, Martin (Ryan), Brady, Grealish, Heighway, Stapleton, Robinson.	

Football League Cup

(Fourth Round)

BIRMINGHAM (1) 2 (Worthington (pen), Ainscow)	
IPSWICH (1) 1 (Wark)	18,898
Birmingham: Wealds, Page, Dennis, Curbishley, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Bertschin, Worthington, Gemill, Dillon.	
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, McCall, Mills, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, D'Avray, Brazil, Gates.	

COVENTRY (1) 1 (Thompson)	
CAMBRIDGE (0) 1 (Taylor)	17,049
Coventry: Sealey, Coop, Roberts, Gooding, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak, Blair, Thompson, English, Hunt.	
Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Gibbins, O'Neill, Spriggs, Reilly, Taylor, Christie.	

LIVERPOOL (2) 4 (Dalglish, Johnson 2, Souness)	
PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 (Kennedy (A) (og))	32,021
Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy (A), Irwin, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.	
Portsmouth: Mellor, McLaughlin, Viney, Barnard, Davey, Garner, Gregory, Tait, Showers, Bryant, Rogers (Laidlaw).	

WATFORD (2) 4 (Blissett (pen), Jenkins 3)	
NOTTM. FOREST (0) 1 (Wallace)	22,597
Watford: Steele, Henderson, Harrison, Blissett, Sims, Jackett, Poskett, Ward, Jenkins, Train, Rostron.	
Nottm. Forest: Sutton, Gunn, Gray, Ponte, Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Bowyer, Mills, Wallace, Robertson.	

WEST HAM (0) 2 (Martin, Cross)	
BARNLEY (0) 1 (Evans)	21,548
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard (Allen), Brush, Martin, Devonshire, Holland, Goddard, Cross, Neighbour, Pike.	
Barnley: New, Joyce, Chambers, Glavin, Banks, McCarthy, Evans, Riley, Aylott, Lester, Downes.	

Third Division

CARLISLE (2) 2 (Bannon 2)	
BLACKPOOL (0) 0	3,588
CHARLTON (2) 4 (Walsh 2, Robinson, Powell)	
READING (0) 2 (Earles, Webb)	6,162
COLCHESTER (1) 2 (Allinson, Lee)	
HULL (0) 0	2,239
GILLINGHAM (2) 2 (Bruce, Westwood)	
SHEFFIELD UTD (2) 2 (Trusson, Charles)	4,967
MILLWALL (0) 0	
WALSALL (0) 1 (O'Kelly)	2,785
NEWPORT (2) 2 (Aldridge, Clement (og))	
FULHAM (0) 1 (Beck pen)	6,029
PLYMOUTH (0) 0	
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Smith)	7,249

Fourth Division

ALDERSHOT (2) 2 (Garwood, French)	
TORQUAY (0) 1 (Coffill)	2,268
BURY (1) 2 (Hilton, Tully)	
HEREFORD (1) 1 (Hunt)	2,268
DARLINGTON (2) 4 (McLean 2 (pens), Speedie, Walsh)	
ROCHDALE (2) 4 (Taylor, Jones, Esser, Wellings)	1,579
HALIFAX (1) 2 (Graham, Hendrie)	
BRADFORD (0) 0	2,365
SCUNTHORPE (1) 1 (Cammack)	
DONCASTER (1) 1 (Nimmo)	4,053
WIMBLEDON (0) 2 (Leslie, Cork)	
PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Quow)	1,901

Anglo-Scottish Cup

(Quarter-Final, second-leg)

CHESTERFIELD (2) 3 (Bonnyman 2, Moss)	
RANGERS (0) 0	
Chesterfield win 4-1 on agg.	

Wednesday, Oct 29

Football League Cup

(Fourth Round)

MANCHESTER CITY (2) 5 (Tueart 4, Bennett)	
NOTTS COUNTY (0) 1 (Christie)	22,000
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, Power, Reid, Henry, Caton, Tueart, Buckley, Mackenzie, Bennett, Reeves (Sugrue).	
Notts County: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Harkouk, Kilcline, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie Wood, Hunt, Hooks.	

West Ham's David Cross shoots past Mick McCarthy of Barnsley at Upton Park.



WBA 0

PRESTON 0

17,579

WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Moses, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown, Regis, Treweek, Barnes (Mills).
Preston: Tunks, Westwell, McAteer, Burns, Baxter, Blackley, Doyle (Bell), Coleman, Elliott, Bruce, McGee.

First Division

NORWICH (1) 1 (Fashanu)	
CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 1 (Francis)	15,782
Norwich: Hansbury, Bond, Downs, McGuire, Hoadley, Nightingale, Barham, Fashanu, Royle, Paddon, Goble.	
C. Palace: Barron, Hinselwood, Fenwick, Nicholas, Cannon, Gilbert, Lovell, Francis, Walsh, Flanagan, Smillie (Sealy).	

Third Division

CHESTER (0) 0	
HUDDERSFIELD (2) 2 (Kindon, Robins)	4,311
OXFORD (0) 1 (Shotton pen)	
ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (Moore)	3,064

Fourth Division

CREWE (1) 1 (Bowers)	
SOUTHEND (1) 1 (Spence)	4,217
LINCOLN (0) 2 (Neale, Thompson)	
TRANMERE (0) 0	4,628
WIGAN (1) 1 (Urquhart)	
YORK (0) 0	3,668

Bell's Scottish League Cup

(Quarter-Finals, second-leg)

ABERDEEN (0) 0	
DUNDEE (0) 1 (Fraser)	13,000
Dundee win 1-0 on agg.	
DUNDEE UTD (1) 4 (Ward 2, Sturrock Hegarty)	
CLYDEBANK (0) 1 (Miller)	5,265
Dundee Utd win 5-3 on agg.	

Friday, October 31

Second Division

CARDIFF (0) 0	
CHELSEA (1) 1 (Hutchings)	8,489
Cardiff: Grotier, Jones, Lewis, Grapes (Micallef), Pontin, Dwyer, Bishop, Kitchen, Stevens, Buchanan.	
Chelsea: Borota, Nutton, Rofe, Bumstead, Droy, Chivers, Driver, Fillery (Hutchings), Lee, Walker, (Rhoades-Brown).	

Fourth Division

NORTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Phillips 2)	
HALIFAX (1) 1 (McIlwraith)	2,226
SOUTHEND (1) 2 (Gray, Mercer)	
STOCKPORT (0) 0	5,716
TRANMERE (2) 3 (Evans, Lumby 2)	
BURY (0) 1 (Madden)	2,426

Saturday, November 1

First Division

ARSENAL (0) 2 (Rix, McDermott)	
BRIGHTON (0) 0	28,569
Arsenal: Wood, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, Walford, Young, Hollins, Sunderland, Stapleton, McDermott, Rix.	
Brighton: Moseley, Gregory, Cohen, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, Stevens, Ritchie, Robinson, Smith, O'Sullivan.	

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 (Shaw, Cowans)	
LEICESTER (0) 0	29,953
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Deacy (Williams), Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.	
Leicester: Wallington, Carr, Gibson, Williams, May, Scott, Melrose, Henderson, Young, Wilson, Smith.	

COVENTRY (2) 2 (Hunt, Bodak)	
LEEDS (0) 1 (Connor)	13,970
Coventry: Sealey, Coop, Roberts, Gooding (Thomas), Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak, Blair, Hateley, Van Gool, Hunt.	
Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Madeley, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Harris, Hird, Connor, Gray, Graham.	

CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 1 (Nicholas)	
MANCHESTER UTD (0) 0	31,181
C. Palace: Barron, Hinselwood, Fenwick, Nicholas, Cannon, Gilbert, Lovell, Francis, Walsh, Flanagan, Smillie.	
Man. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, McIlroy, Jovanovic, Moran, Coppell, Birtles, Jordan, Macari, Thomas.	

RERS... LINE-UPS... RESULTS... SC

EVERTON (1) 2 (Eastoe, McMahon)
TOTTENHAM (1) 2 (Archibald 2) 26,174
 Everton: McDonagh, Gidman, Bailey, Wright, Lyons, Stanley, McMahon, Eastoe, Latchford (O'Keefe), Hartford, McBride.
 Tottenham: Daines, Smith, Hughton, Miller, Lacy, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Villa, Hoddle, Crooks.

IPSWICH 0
WBA 0 23,043
 Ipswich: Cooper (Turner), Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Gates, Brazil, McCall.
 WBA: Godden, Trewick, Statham (Benjamin), Moses, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown, Regis, Mills, Monaghan.

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 1 (Power)
NORWICH (0) 0 33,056
 Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Tuart, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison (Daley), Bennett.
 Norwich: Hansbury, Bond, Downs, McGuire, Hoadley (Powell), Nightingale, Barham, Fashanu, Royle, Padon, Goble.

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 1 (Jankovic)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 2 (Worthington 2) 14,061
 Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Bailey, Johnston, Angus, McAndrew, Hedley, Proctor, Hodgson, Jankovic, Armstrong.
 Birmingham: Wealands, Langan, Dennis, Curbishley, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Bertschin, Worthington, Gemmill, Dillon.

NOTTM. FOREST (2) 2 (Ward, Robertson pen)
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Moran) 24,669
 Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, Ponte, Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Bowyer, Wallace, Ward, Robertson.
 Southampton: Katalinic, Golac, Waldron, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Moran, Channon, Boyer, Holmes, Baker.

STOKE (0) 2 (Chapman, Randall)
LIVERPOOL (1) 2 (Johnson, Dalglish) 22,864
 Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Doyle (Randall), Dodd, Munro, Richardson, Heath, Chapman, Bracewell, O'Callaghan.
 Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.

WOLVES (2) 2 (Clarke 2)
SUNDERLAND (1) 1 (Allardyce) 18,816
 Wolves: Bradshaw, Humphrey, Palmer, Daniel, Brazier, Villazan, Hibbitt, Atkinson, Clarke, Richards, Eves.
 Sunderland: Turner, Whitworth, Bolton, Allardyce, Elliott, Buckley, Arnott, Rowell, Cooke, Brown, Cummins.

Second Division

BLACKBURN 0
SWANSEA 0 10,846
 Blackburn: Butcher, Branagan, Rathbone, Kendall, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherton, McKenzie, Garner, Stonehouse, Speight.
 Swansea: Stewart, Charles, Hadziabdic, Attley, Phillips, Rushbury, Giles (James R), Mahoney, Robinson, Waddle, James (L).

BOLTON (1) 6 (Kidd 3, Whatmore, Hoggan, Cantello)
CAMBRIDGE (0) 1 (Taylor) 8,016
 Bolton: Poole, Nicholson, Walsh, Cantello, Burke, Jones, Reid, Whatmore, Carter (Hoggan), Kidd, Gowing.
 Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Buckley, Smith, Fallon, Gibbins (Finney), O'Neill, Spriggs, Reilly, Taylor, Christie.

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0
WEST HAM (1) 1 (Goddard) 6,328
 Bristol Rovers: Thomas, Gillies, Bater, McCaffrey, Hughes, Cooper, Barrowclough (Emmanuel), Williams, Mabbutt, Bates, Barrett.
 West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire (Brush), Holland, Goddard, Cross, Neighbour, Pike.

DERBY (0) 1 (Biley)
SHREWSBURY (1) 1 (Keay pen) 15,784
 Derby: Jones, Emery, Buckley, Sheridan, Powell (S), Osgood, Clark, Hector, Biley, Swindlehurst, Emson.
 Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard, Petts (Turner), Griffin, Keay, Tong, Atkins, Biggins, Dungworth, Cross.

GRIMSBY 0
QPR 0 10,015

Grimsb: Batch, Stone, Crosby, Waters, Wigginton, Moore, Broily (Kilmore), Ford, Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming.
QPR: Woods, Shanks, Gillard, Waddock, Wicks, Roeder (Wilkins), Howe, King, Neal, Langley, Silkman.

LUTON (0) 3 (Moss 2 (1 pen), White) 12,092
SHEFFIELD WED (0) 0
 Luton: Judge, Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, Goodyear, Price, Hill, Stein, White, Aizlewood, Moss.
 Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Grant, Smith, Pickering, Hornsby, Taylor (Mirocevic), Johnson, Sterland, McCulloch, Curran.

NEWCASTLE (2) 2 (Hibbitt, Shinton)
WATFORD (1) 1 (Poskett) 14,619
 Newcastle: Carr, Carney, Johnson, Martin, Boam, Mitchell, Shinton, Wharton, Clarke, Shoulder, Hibbitt.
 Watford: Steele, Henderson, Harrison, Blissett, Sims, Jackett, Poskett, Ward, Jenkins, Train, Rostron.

OLDHAM (1) 1 (Keegan)
PRESTON (1) 1 (Bruce) 6,379
 Oldham: McDonnell, Sinclair, Blair, Kowenicki, Clements, Hurst, Hilton, Stainrod, Wyld, Keegan, Heaton.
 Preston: Tunks, Westwell, McAteer, Burns, Baxter, Blackley, Bell, Coleman, Elliott (O'Riordan), Bruce, McGee.

ORIENT (1) 3 (Chiedozie, Parsons, Moores)
BRISTOL CITY (1) 1 (Mabbutt) 4,698
 Orient: Day, Fisher, Roffey, Taylor, Gray, Parsons, Chiedozie, Moores, Mayo, Bowles, Margerrison.
 Bristol City: Cashley, Sweeney, Hay, Mann, Whitehead, Merrick, Tainton, Fitzpatrick, Mabbutt, Ritchie, Garland.

WREXHAM (1) 1 (McNeil)
NOTTS COUNTY (1) 1 (Hooks) 6,221
 Wrexham: Davies, Salathiel (Hill), Jones, Davis, Cegielski, Carrodus, Fox, Sutton, McNeil, Vinter, Cartwright.
 Notts County: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Harkouk, Kilcline, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie, Hunt, Hooks (Kelly).

Third Division

BARNLEY (1) 2 (Aylott, Glavin)
CHESTER (0) 0 9,330

BLACKPOOL (1) 2 (McEwan pen, Ashurst)
NEWPORT (2) 4 (Aldridge, Gwyther, Oakes 2) 4,556

BRENTFORD (1) 3 (Hill, Crown 2)
OXFORD (0) 0 6,550

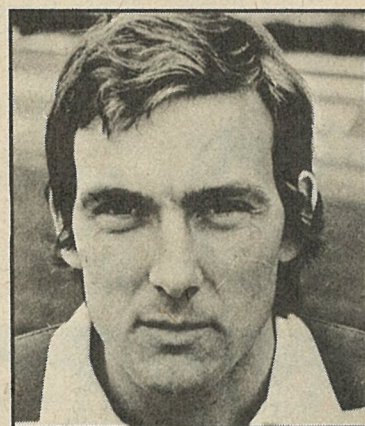
FULHAM (1) 1 (Wilson)
CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Birch) 4,706

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0
CHARLTON (0) 1 (Walker) 11,329

HULL (1) 1 (Deacy)
PLYMOUTH (0) 0 3,367

PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 (Gregory, Showers)
CARLISLE (0) 1 (Beardsley) 13,930

READING (1) 2 (Hicks, Williams)
EXETER (0) 1 (Kellow) 4,622



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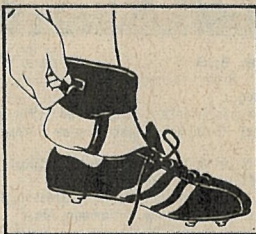
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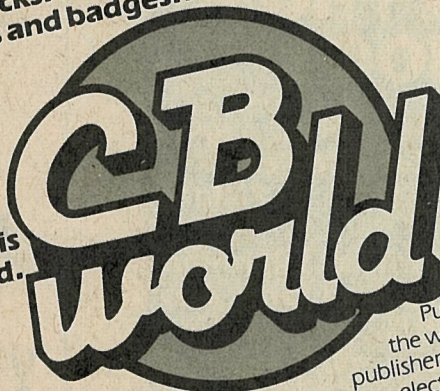
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Bryan can still pop 'em in



WHEN Sunderland's Bryan Robson received a Man of the Match award from a local brewery firm for his display against Leeds United in late September, it amply illustrated the resilience of the 34-year-old goal-getter.

At the beginning of the season, "Pop" Robson had been left out of the Sunderland line-up, and his game against Leeds was his first full League outing of the term.

And as if to rub in the lesson about how wrong his club had been in previously relegating him to the sub's bench, Bryan rammed home a couple of characteristic goals against the Elland Road side.

As well as the goals contributing to the defeat of Leeds, they helped Robson a little closer towards the achievement of a personal ambition.

"Between October and the end of the season I reckon I need 18 goals to bring the total scored throughout my career to 250," says Pop.

"So I have to work hard to keep my place in the team, in order to reach my goals target."

But to Robson there is more at stake this season than a personal search for goals — he is desperately keen to help make Sunderland worthy of their First Division status, and also to prove that with more than 550 League games behind him there is still plenty of life left in his small, compact frame.

He says: "I'll go on playing for some time yet and I want to be a part of a Sunderland team that at least is in the top ten of the League, in the first season of their return to Division One."

"Of course, we can't afford to give away points at home, as we have done this term, which is in complete contrast to last season, when we were unbeaten at home in the League."

"But it's difficult to explain how results can go against you at home, or away, even

when your team is playing well. For example, we were two goals up against Nottingham Forest at Roker, then could only draw after we had had most of the game."

"However, it seems only Liverpool have mastered the art of being consistent, season after season, at home."

For Robson, the challenge of maintaining his place in the Sunderland side and scoring goals is one which will be met with the same determination he showed last season, when for three months he had the leanest-ever scoring spell of his career.

He recalls: "Things just weren't coming off for me, but I started to get goals again because of one important factor — I never lost my scoring instincts."

And as a striker who has experienced the feeling of frustration when not scoring, Bryan is delighted that another Sunderland marksman, Gary Rowell, has regained his goals-touch.

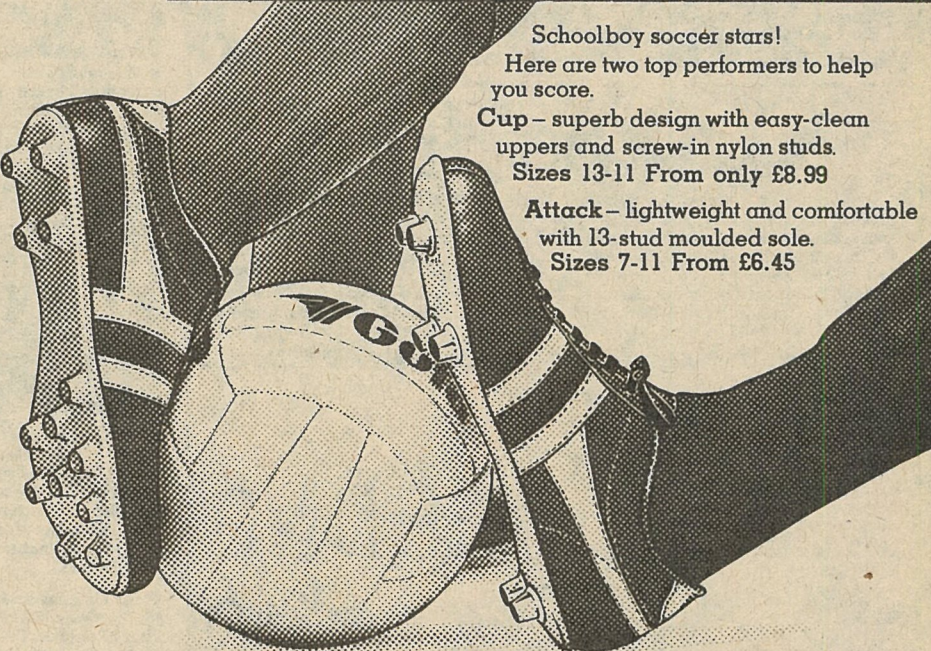
"Gary's winning goal against Crystal Palace was his third in four games, giving him the confidence he lacked in the previous 18 months after being injured. From now on, he should go from strength to strength."

"As for my own game, I believe I'll keep on scoring. In the First Division, it is physically less demanding than playing in Division Two, where there is so much bustle."

"I'm happy in the area where I am now — I'm settled here and it's where I would like to live permanently."

Robson scores in his first full game of the season against Leeds at Roker Park.

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FANCY having all the facts and figures of world soccer at your fingertips? The new Encyclopedia of World Football by Phil Soar, Martin Tyler and Richard Widdows (Marshall Cavendish, £7.95) will give you just this. It comprises 192 pages, including 70 colour photos, and has details of all the World Cups, European Championships, Euro Cups and soccer all over the world.

Gates up in Brazil

IT IS interesting to note that whilst attendances are falling in Europe, in Brazil the statistics show that during the recent Brazil Cup attendances were up by 44 per cent and gate receipts increased by 114 per cent.

Flamengo were the club which attracted the majority of the crowds — 1,231,776 watched their 22 games — average 55,990 per match.

Atlético Mineiro with 1,043,410 — average 47,428, ran them close with Corinthians 34,225 and Vasco da Gama 33,622 in third and fourth places.

The Final between Flamengo (3) and Atlético Mineiro (1) was seen by 158,000 spectators.

Laurie in the lolly

SPANISH clubs still tend to be liberal with their bonuses and even the most modest First Division sides pay £300 a head for an away win, while Barcelona pay £480 and Real and Atlético Madrid top the £600 mark.

An away draw is worth anything from £210 to £420. And even a home win can net from £210 to £510.

On top of that, most clubs double their bonuses for important matches and European games.

So Laurie Cunningham and his Real Madrid team-mates have been averaging £400 a week in bonuses alone!

ARGENTINE World Cup winger Daniel Bertoní is still trying to keep his temper in the face of typically Italian-style man-to-man marking.

He was sent-off for the second time in two months during Fiorentina's game against Brescia.

Bertoní humbly accepted the club's fine of £600, but added "you just can't take all the kicks, punches, elbowing, trips and insults without giving back a bit. The trouble with being a foreign player is that the referees keep a special eye on you and are ready to jump on you as soon as you put a foot out of line."

It's a knockout

A referee was knocked unconscious during the Bundesliga game between Karlsruhe and Arminia Bielefeld. The official, Max Klauser, was in the way when Bielefeld defender Buscher cleared. The ball hit the ref on the chin from a distance of ten feet and he was out cold for three minutes. When he came to, his first words were: "Who scored?" Herr Klauser was rushed to hospital, a linesman taking over, with a qualified ref from the crowd running the line. Thankfully, Herr Klauser is okay. Incidentally, it was ironic that he was injured right in front of an advertisement board for — life insurance!



CHUMPITAZ BANNED AFTER SCUFFLE

PERU'S national team captain, Hector Chumpitaz, has been banned from football for six months by the authorities.

The 36-year-old defender who's represented Peru on 156 occasions (including non-A games) blotted his copybook at the end of Sporting Cristal's 1-0 defeat by Juan Aurich.

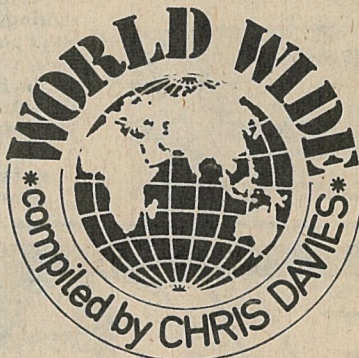
Although the result still left Cristal five points clear at the top of the table, Chumpitaz felt that the referee Enrique Labo had been a little too favourable to the home team.

And as the trio of officials made their way to the dressing-rooms, he muscled between a linesman and the referee, and gave the official a hefty shove.

Back in the dressing-rooms, a Sporting Cristal director claimed that the referee was drunk — whereupon Señor Labo voluntarily underwent a breath test that proved he was sober.

When the dust had settled, Chumpitaz claimed that he hadn't shoved the referee. But TV film showed that Señor Labo had been correct in sending-off three Cristal players, and that he had been assaulted by Chumpitaz.

The authorities promptly dished out their six-month suspension, and at the moment Sporting Cristal are threatening to go on strike; and the referee is suing the club for £125,000 damages following that 'drunk' allegation!



Lost his cool —and £900!

VALENCIA sweeper Ricardo Arias (right) always maintains his fierce temper is his worst enemy — and he certainly lost his cool during Valencia's recent 2-0 defeat in Valladolid.

The referee showed him two yellow cards, and his departure towards the dressing-rooms was accompanied by an impressive burst of swearing directed at the referee and one of the linesmen.

Arias was promptly given a four-match suspension, and the club fined him £900!

● THE reign of new Cologne boss Rinus Michels took a nasty knock when in an F.A. Cup replay, SC Freiburg knocked out FC Cologne 3-1. The goalkeepers were largely responsible for the final score with Gunther Wienhold, who is nearly 33, the hero of Freiburg while West Germany's regular choice Tony Schumacher had a stinker and was responsible for conceding all three goals with blunders. Thirty-nine-year-old midfielder general Karl-Heinz Bents out-shone Rainer Bonhof and the 17,000 crowd was by far Freiburg's best attendance of the season.

15 points for a win

WHILE English clubs ponder over the prospect of awarding three points for a win, the Americans have gone one better. Twelve better, to be exact.

From the 1981 season, NASL sides will be able to win an incredible 15 points for a victory: nine points (instead of six) for simply winning, plus one point for the first goal scored, two for the second and three for the third, for a maximum of six.



News flashes

● Paraguay's national team didn't exactly enjoy their recent trip to play a friendly against Brazil in Goiana. Apart from losing 6-0, they had £6,000 in cash stolen from their hotel.



● In Spain an unemployed lorry driver has won £1,245,000 on the state-run football pools. He was the only Spaniard to forecast 1, X or 2 correctly for all 14 matches on the coupon. His stake was 25p

● As Uruguay limbers up for the "Mundialito" just after Christmas, the country has recently enjoyed its first ever colour TV transmission. Ironically, it was a rugby match.

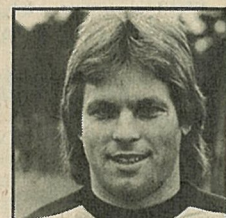
● Stefan Kovacs, overlord within the Rumanian F.A. with regards to the national team, made a shrewd comment about Ajax and Dutch football generally at a Press conference in Bucharest. "Not long ago," he said, "the Dutch were amateurs who played like professionals. Now they are professionals who play like amateurs."

● When Karl-Heinz Heddergott (left) was relieved of his responsibilities by Cologne he was the 101st trainer sacked in the Bundesliga since its inception in 1963.

● When French Champions FC Nantes beat Metz 1-0 recently it was their 85th home game in a row without defeat, a run that started on May 15th, 1976. The previous best was between March, 1973, and August, 1977, established by St Etienne.

● Preparing for their Copa de Oro in December-January, the Uruguayan F.A. asked the Dutch F.A. for a video recording of their recent 1-1 draw with West Germany so that their players could study it.

● After nine League games in Holland the leading scorer is Kurt Welzl of AZ '67 with 14 goals — six more than anyone else. Welzl is the same man who scored for Austria when they beat England 4-3 and is keeping Kees Kist, top scorer in Holland last season, out of the side.



● Friedl Koncilia (above) the international goalkeeper of FK Austria (Vienna), has been suspended until 4th April, spanning 16 games. Against Grazer AK he hit Graz's Warner Gregoritsch and delivered a perfect KO. The authorities also ordered that Koncilia should not be paid while suspended which means that he will lose around £20,000!

GARY Mabbutt is 19. He has captained England's youth team, won a place in Bristol Rovers' Second Division side, and is rated in the £500,000 class by his manager Terry Cooper.

England youth team boss Johnny Cartwright has compared him to the great Dutchman Johan Neeskens. In every way he stands on the threshold of a dream.

Gary is also a diabetic. He suffers from a disease which less than a year ago threatened to turn his dream into a nightmare.

He must inject himself twice a day, and take great care over what he eats. If he doesn't he wouldn't only be risking his career — but his life too!

Yet Mabbutt has proved that his illness need not be a handicap. He toils and runs in midfield with so much energy it is hard to believe that 50 years ago diabetes was a killer disease.

Maturity

And he has taken the whole thing with a cool courage and maturity which belies his age.

"It was a savage shock when it was first diagnosed," he recalls.

"I had a bad game on New Year's Day at Leicester, and during the week after suffered a terrible thirst after training every day.

"Harold Jarman, who was manager then, told me he was going to drop me for a Cup-tie against First Division Aston Villa on Friday night. I stayed in the side because someone was injured, and I went out determined to prove

him wrong.

"For the first time in my life I suffered with cramp near the end of the game, but I put it down to the amount of running I had done.

"I trained again on Monday, but still didn't feel right. Next day they sent me for tests, and by Wednesday I was laid up in hospital.

"Everybody said it wouldn't harm my career, but I found that hard to believe. The doctor told me about five or six names of famous sportsmen he said were diabetics — but when my Dad got in touch with them for advice none of them were.

"It worried me a lot, but then Danny McGrain, the Celtic and Scotland full-back, who is diabetic, got in touch with me, and he reassured me and cheered me up. Then the doctors worked out a plan for me, and I was back in training in no time."

Gary now plays on with two insulin injections a day, and nine glucose tablets before a game, with six at half-time.

He follows a strict diet — no

sugar, chocolates, sweet puddings, bread, apples, peas, biscuits, but as much meat, poultry and fish as he wants.

"Before I was diagnosed I looked on diabetes as a serious handicap, because I knew nothing about it. But I've found that you can live a normal life.

"I think it is important for other people, especially young lads who suffer with it to know that."

Now Gary wants to help set up an advice service for other diabetics.

"The hardest time is when it is first diagnosed and then you need to meet someone with the same problem to help show you it won't wreck your life.

"I'd be only too happy to try to help any youngster in any way. I don't want to make a big fuss about it, because I'm only starting in football, and I don't want to sound big headed.

"I've got a long way to go yet. But if any boy, or his parents, want to get in touch with me for help or advice then I hope they will do."

Diabetes no handicap for Mabbutt



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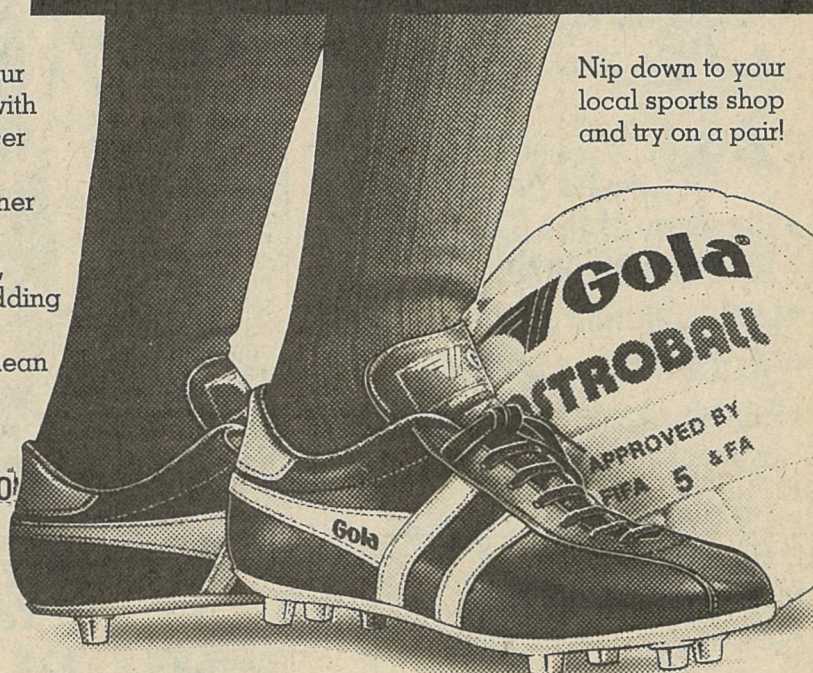
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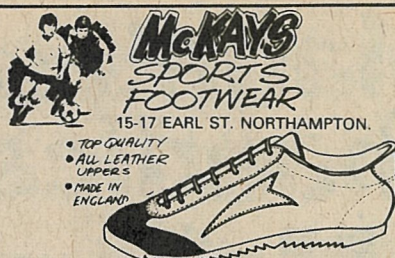
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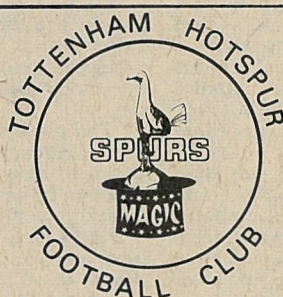
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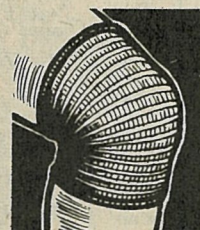
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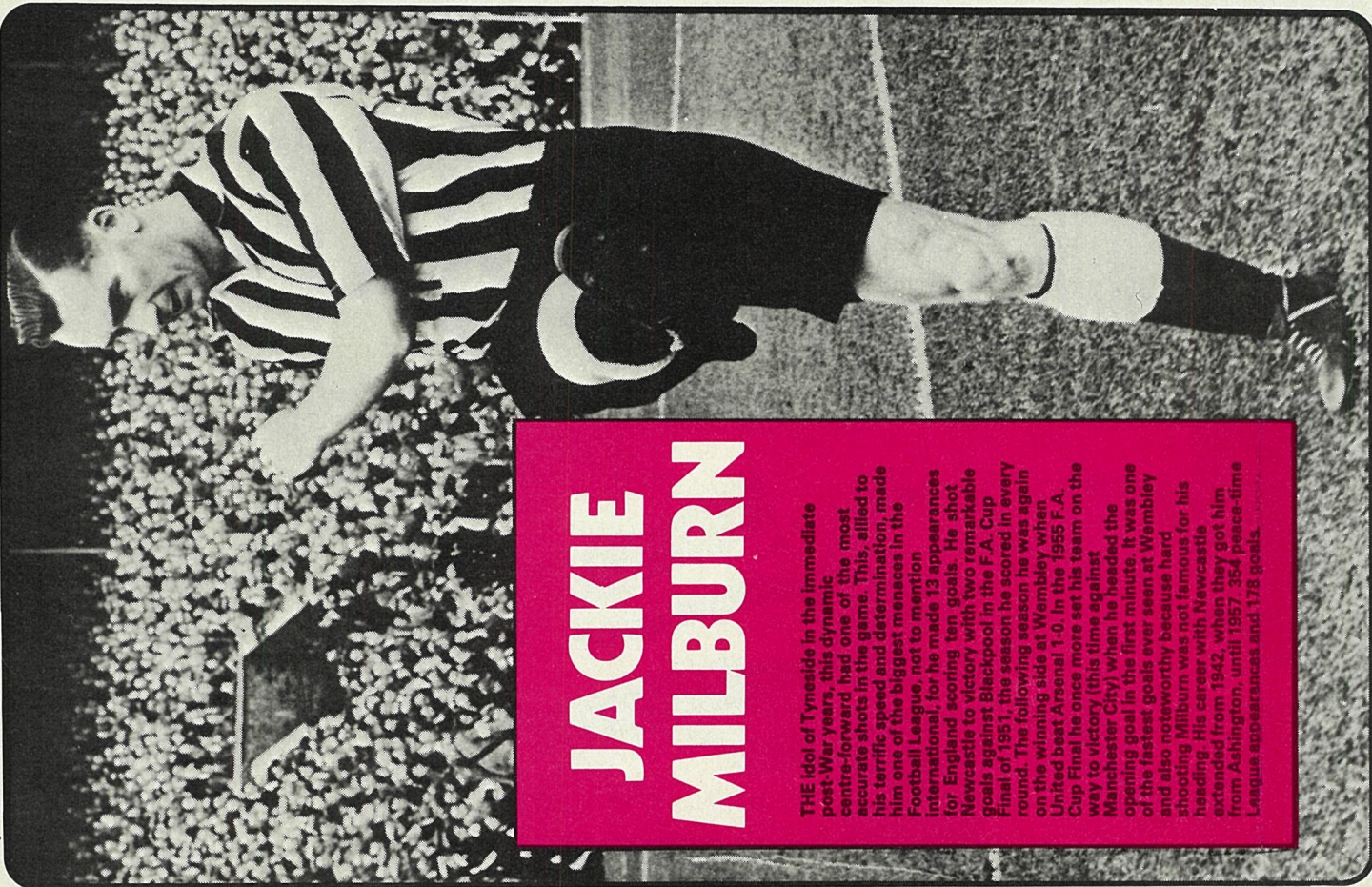
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JACKIE MILBURN

THE idol of Tyneside in the immediate post-war years, this dynamic centre-forward had one of the most accurate shots in the game. This, allied to his terrific speed and determination, made him one of the biggest menaces in the Football League, not to mention international, for he made 13 appearances for England scoring ten goals. He shot Newcastle to victory with two remarkable goals against Blackpool in the F.A. Cup Final of 1951, the season he scored in every round. The following season he was again on the winning side at Wembley when United beat Arsenal 1-0. In the 1955 F.A. Cup Final he once more set his team on the way to victory (this time against Manchester City) when he headed the opening goal in the first minute. It was one of the fastest goals ever seen at Wembley and also noteworthy because hard shooting Milburn was not famous for his heading. His career with Newcastle extended from 1942, when they got him from Ashington, until 1957. 354 league appearances and 178 goals.

JOE MERCER



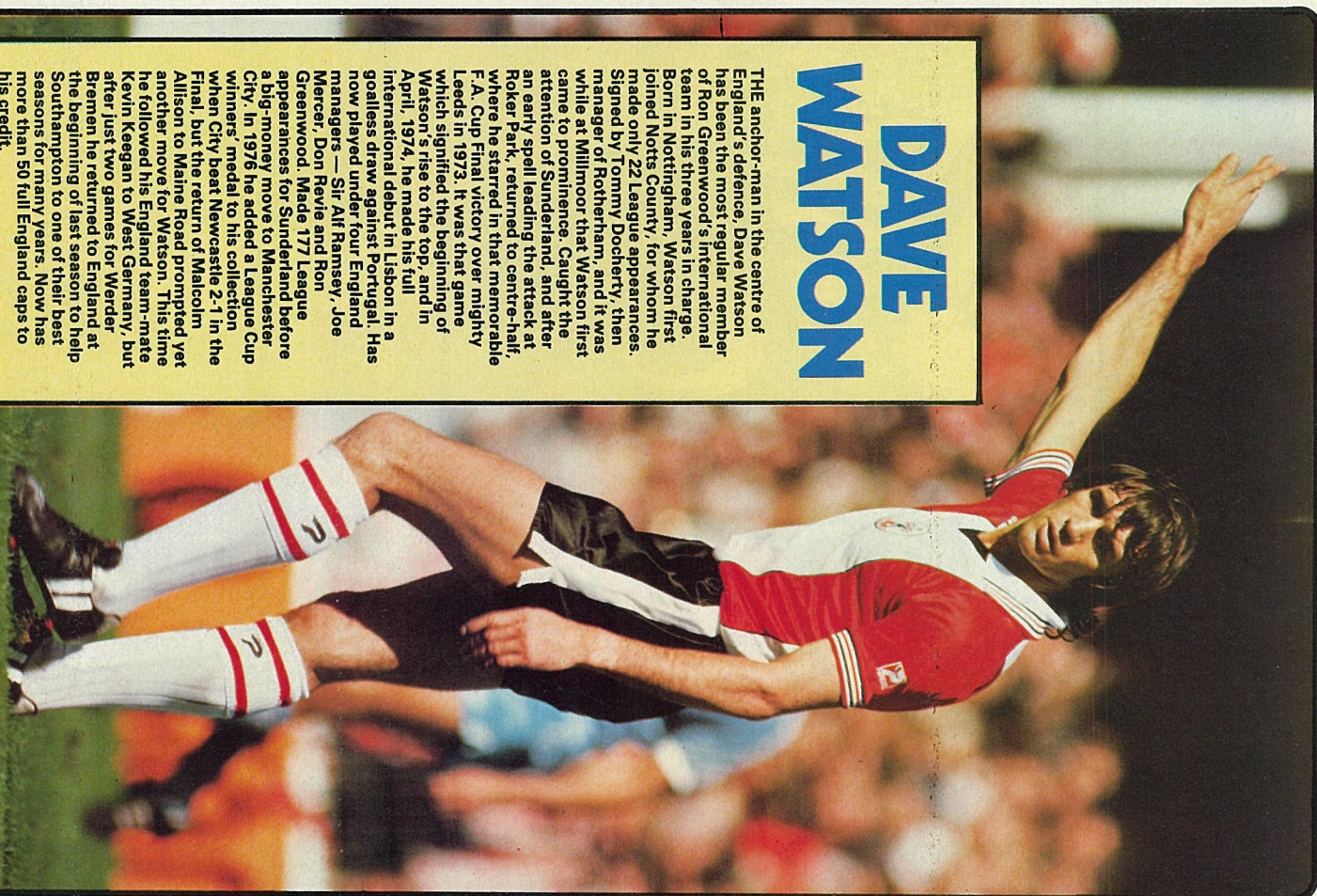
THIS genial personality began with Everton, making his debut in 1933; helping them to win the Championship in 1938-39. During the War he was a member of the famous England half-back line of Cliff Britton, Stan Cullis and Joe Mercer, still reckoned to have been England's finest intermediate trio, but after the War knee trouble was slowing him down and threatening to end his career. It was then that Arsenal stepped in and secured his transfer. The move revitalised Mercer and he went on to add another 247 League appearances to his total, helping The Gunners win two League titles and the F.A. Cup. It wasn't until he broke a leg in April, 1954 that he finally retired after 420 League games.



ALAN BALL

CURRENTLY the player-manager of Third Division Blackpool, Alan Ball will forever be remembered for his tremendous contribution to England's victory in the 1966 World Cup Final. The outstanding player against West Germany at Wembley on that day, the little midfielder answered those doubters who had earlier rejected him because of his lack of stature. Blackpool eventually gave him his big chance, and within a couple of years of his League debut he gained his first full cap for England against Yugoslavia in May, 1965. The World Cup Final was his 13th game for his country, and shortly after that success he became the first player to be transferred between two British clubs for a six-figure fee when he signed for Everton, in 208 League

games for Everton. Ball scored 66 goals, an outstanding record for a midfielder player. He still holds the Everton club record as their most capped player. The highlight of his stay at Goodison Park came in 1970, when he was the inspiration behind the club's surge to the League Championship, but in December, 1971, he was surprisingly sold to Arsenal. Despite making 177 League appearances for The Gunners, Ball never gave a full account of himself at Highbury, and in 1977 was sold to Southampton. Despite his advancing years, Ball nevertheless fitted in perfectly at The Dell, and in his first full season helped his new club to promotion back to the First Division. Alan Ball gained 72 full England caps in all, scoring eight goals.



DAVE WATSON

THE anchor-man in the centre of England's defence, Dave Watson has been the most regular member of Ron Greenwood's international team in his three years in charge. Born in Nottingham, Watson first joined Notts County, for whom he made only 22 League appearances. Signed by Tommy Docherty, then manager of Rotherham, and it was while at Millmoor that Watson first came to prominence. Caught the attention of Sunderland, and after an early spell leading the attack at Roker Park, returned to centre-half, where he starred in that memorable F.A. Cup Final victory over mighty Leeds in 1973. It was that game which signified the beginning of Watson's rise to the top, and in April, 1974, he made his full international debut in Lisbon in a goalless draw against Portugal. Has now played under four England managers — Sir Alf Ramsey, Joe Mercer, Don Revie and Ron Greenwood. Made 177 League appearances for Sunderland before a big-money move to Manchester City. In 1976 he added a League Cup winners' medal to his collection when City beat Newcastle 2-1 in the Final, but the return of Malcolm Allison to Maine Road prompted yet another move for Watson. This time he followed his England team-mate Kevin Keegan to West Germany, but after just two games for Werder Bremen he returned to England at the beginning of last season to help Southampton to one of their best seasons for many years. Now has more than 50 full England caps to his credit.



PADDY MULLIGAN

REPUBLIC of Ireland full-back on more than 50 occasions, Paddy Mulligan played a prominent role in helping to establish his native country as a strong soccer nation. Born in Dublin, Mulligan gained his first full cap while a Shamrock Rovers player against Czechoslovakia in 1969. Signed by Chelsea manager Dave Sexton in 1970, and although he spent most of his time at Stamford Bridge as a defensive understudy, he did appear for them in the 1972 League Cup Final against Stoke at

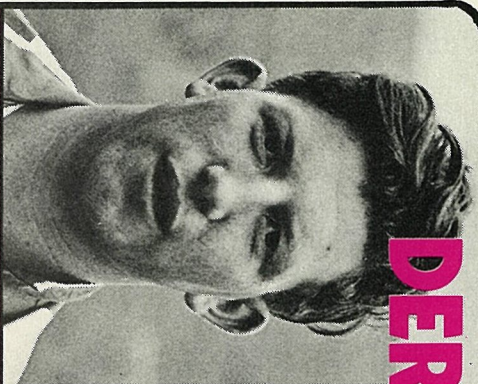
Wembley. Made 58 League appearances for the club before a move to Crystal Palace, for whom he played another 57 games. From Selhurst Park, Mulligan was transferred to WBA in 1976, where he teamed up with his international team-mate Johnny Giles. It was this partnership which has since determined the career of Paddy Mulligan, and when Giles quit the Football League to take charge of Shamrock Rovers, Mulligan followed him to his first club.



DIEGO MARADONA

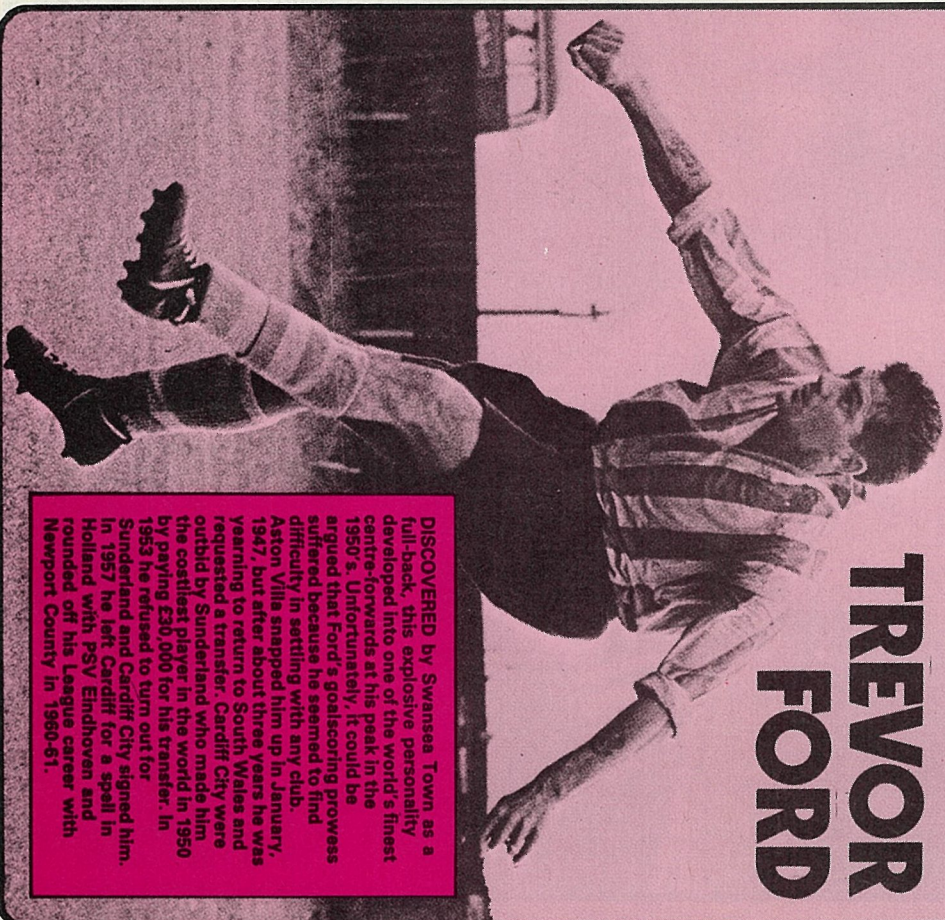
THE current sensation of the soccer world, and probably the most complete footballer to come out of South America since Pele. Made his first appearance for his country as a substitute in a 5-1 win against Hungary when only 16, and a member of Argentina's original World Cup squad for the successful 1978 campaign. Born in Florito on the

outskirts of Buenos Aires on October 30, 1960, his first club actually called themselves Pelusita, Maradona's nickname! From there he signed for his local club, Argentinos Juniors, for whom he still stars despite a world record bid for his services from Barcelona. Although Argentina were beaten 3-1 at Wembley in May, few people will ever forget his breathtaking run through the England defence which came so close to bringing a memorable goal (above).



DEREK DOOLEY

DESPITE the fact he was a top class player for less than two seasons, this giant 6ft 4in bulldozer with the size 12 boots must rank among the all-time greats because of what he achieved in that short time. Derek Dooley's story is one of glory and sorrow. There was no finesse about this gangling red-haired youngster, but when Sheffield Wednesday took him under their wing after a brief spell with Lincoln City in 1951-52 there was no stopping him. He scored 46 Second Division goals in 30 games and shot them into the First Division. Dooley went on scoring the following season until that fateful day at Preston in February, 1953. He collided with the goalkeeper, broke a leg and had it amputated when gangrene set in. Then he had scored 64 goals in 63 League appearances and one can only wonder how many records he might have set but for that tragedy.



TREVOR FORD

DISCOVERED by Swansea Town as a full-back, this explosive personality developed into one of the world's finest centre-forwards at his peak in the 1950's. Unfortunately, it could be argued that Ford's goalscoring prowess suffered because he seemed to find difficulty in settling with any club. Aston Villa snapped him up in January, 1947, but after about three years he was yearning to return to South Wales and requested a transfer. Cardiff City were outbid by Sunderland who made him the costliest player in the world in 1950 by paying £30,000 for his transfer. In 1953 he refused to turn out for Sunderland and Cardiff City signed him. In 1957 he left Cardiff for a spell in Holland with PSV Eindhoven and rounded off his League career with Newport County in 1960-61.



HARRY GREGG

WHEN Manchester United signed the goalkeeper from Doncaster Rovers in December, 1957 they paid £23,500 for the transfer, a record at that time for a player in his position. Less than two months later came the Munich air disaster in which Harry Gregg was one of the heroes who went back into the wreckage to help his team-mates. Less than two weeks later he was in goal again for the sadly depleted United side, and was in the F.A. Cup Final at the end of that dramatic season when United, not surprisingly, were beaten by Bolton. That summer, however, he helped Northern Ireland spring a surprise by reaching the last eight of the World Cup. His display in the 2-2 draw with West Germany marked him down as one of the finest goalkeepers in the world. Shoulder trouble eventually led to an operation which cost him his place in United's team, and in 1967 he ended his League career with a couple of appearances for Stoke City. He played 25 times for N. Ireland.

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Also col sound 200ft
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Also col sound 200ft
- 1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0..... 100ft
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- 1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1..... 100ft
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- 1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1..... 200ft
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- 1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1..... 200ft
- 1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2..... 200ft
- 1963 Man. Utd 3, Leicester 1..... 200ft
- 1962 Spurs 3, Burnley 1..... 100ft
- *1961 Spurs, Leicester..... 100ft
Also col sound 100ft.
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- 1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1..... 100ft
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- 1957 Aston Villa 2, Man. Utd. 1..... 100ft
- 1953 Blackpool 4, Bolton 3..... 100ft
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WORLD CUP

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- *1974 W. Germany 2, Holland 1..... 200ft
- *1974 W. Germany 4, Sweden 2..... 200ft
- *1974 Holland 2, Brazil 0..... 200ft
- *1974 Holland 4, Argentina 0..... 200ft
- *1974 Holland 4, Bulgaria 1..... 200ft
- *1974 Yugoslavia 9, Zaire 0..... 200ft
- *1974 Sweden 2, Yugoslavia 1..... 200ft
- 1974 films also available in 400ft b/w and colour silent; 400ft b/w and colour sound.
- *1970 Italy 4, W. Germany 3 col silent..... 200ft
- *1970 England 2, W. Germany 3 col silent..... 200ft
- *1966 England 4, W. Germany 2..... 200ft & 400ft
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Also col sound 200ft
- *1978 Nott'ham F. 1, Liverpool 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
- *1977 Aston V. 3, Everton 2..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
- *1976 Man. City 2, Newcastle 1..... 200ft
- *1975 Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0..... 100ft
- *1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1..... 100ft

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- *1976 Czechoslovakia 7, W. Germany 5..... 400ft
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INTERNATIONALS

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Also col sound 400ft
- *1977 England 2, Italy 0..... 200ft
Also 200ft col sound
- *1977 England 0, Holland 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also 200ft/400ft col sound
- 1976 Scotland 2, England 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also 400ft b/w sound
- 1975 England 5, Scotland 1..... 200ft
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I'd say the race for the League Championship is between six teams . . . Ipswich, Liverpool, Aston Villa, Forest, Arsenal and ourselves. And while I'm confident the title can end up at Old Trafford, I expect the League leadership to chop and change regularly, so little is there between the contenders.

A random poll amongst fans would almost certainly make Liverpool the favourites to retain their crown. Mind, even Liverpool have dropped some surprising points by their usually high standards.

It's almost two years since they lost at Anfield, although I sometimes wonder whether opponents go there with an inferiority complex. The first time I played at Anfield was for London Boys against Liverpool Boys. We won 2-0 and there were around 15,000 fans there but, even so, I was aware that it was a very special occasion.

My first visit to Liverpool as a professional was with Chelsea. We led 2-1 with three minutes to go. The Reds won four or five corners in succession and eventually forced an equaliser. That's how it seems to go at Anfield.

One reason Arsenal used to do very well at Anfield during the 70's was because of Alan Ball's influence. Ballie is just about the most confident player I've met. He believed no one was better than him and this rubbed off on his team-mates.

It's important to weather the Anfield storm — you know in the first 20 minutes Liverpool are going

to come at you like a great red tidal wave.

Two players have made their presence felt this season: Israeli left-back Avi Cohen and midfielder Sammy Lee. Avi gives the side a bit more 'football' at the back. Whereas Alan Kennedy prefers the long ball, Avi likes to play it around more. Sammy, who's come in for Jimmy Case, does a good job on the right side of midfield and never stops running.

Ray Wilkins
WRITES
FOR YOU



One of the teams to take a point from Liverpool at Anfield this season are Ipswich, who I rate as the most entertaining side in the country so far.

The two Dutchmen, Arnold Mühren and Frans Thijssen, have given them an extra dimension and I've been impressed with the way so many of their outfield players score.

There can be no doubt that the East Anglians will stay the course,

even though their lack of backing in comparison to ours and Liverpool means they don't get the help we do in this respect.

Although the Ipswich fans create a good atmosphere, I wonder whether they can lift their team to victory or a comeback as the Stretford End can. I recall one match in particular, last season, when we

were 1-0 down at Old Trafford to Crystal Palace. Our fans carried us to a fighting comeback and we equalised.

Bobby Robson has said that Liverpool's crowd is worth six points a season to them "but we have to earn those points". I know what he means.

I don't go along with those who



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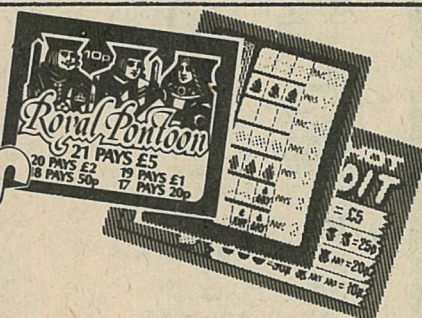
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say Town don't have the strength in depth. Every team in Division One would like to have Kevin Beattie sitting on their bench, while the experienced Allan Hunter is also available. Young Steve McCall and Kevin O'Callaghan have done well when called upon. What Ipswich DON'T want is a lot of injuries at once, but one or two shouldn't affect them unduly.

When I talked about Championship contenders last August I didn't mention Aston Villa. We had a tremendous match against them at O.T., drawing 3-3.

I believe the arrival of Peter Withe has taken much of the weight off young Gary Shaw, who has been in top form this season. I also like the way central defender Allan Evans scores so many goals. Most centre-

halves who get amongst the goals score them with headers from set-pieces, but the Villa man has bagged some first-class goals with his feet.

People criticise Arsenal for being boring and over-cautious away from home — but they said that when The Gunners won the double ten seasons ago.

Their attitude is to earn as many points away from home as possible and it's difficult to criticise them for that. Okay, perhaps they didn't give much away at Anfield a few weeks

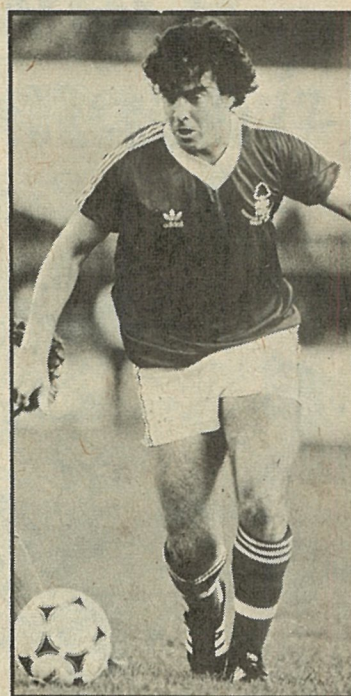
"John Robertson must change his style to suit Forest's new strikers."

ago when they drew 1-1. If they'd thrown caution to the wind they'd have probably lost 4-1!

I think awarding three points for victory would change teams' attitudes. If we were drawing at Anfield with ten minutes to go, we certainly wouldn't be charging upfield in search of a winner. With three points at stake things might be different. Having said that, I wonder if the end product will be that the home teams win more handsomely, exploiting the space left by the visitors. We could have some bumper goal-differences!

Despite a bad recent run, I wouldn't write-off Forest. They are going through a transitional period, with new players and a change of pattern. In attack they now have Ian Wallace and Peter Ward, which means John Robertson has to get his crosses in earlier and lower.

United have, at times, played two



LEFT: "Sammy Lee and Arnold Mühren have made vital contributions in the Liverpool and Ipswich midfields."

BELOW: "Lou Macari has made a success of playing up front for United."



smaller central strikers — Lou Macari and Steve Coppell — with success. It's a question of giving such players the right service.

I've been pleased with the way United have played. We've picked up a few points when we haven't done well, and dropped one or two when we deserved better.

We were under fire last season for the way we played, and some of the criticism was justified. Lately, though, the lads have done exceptionally well — winning in style.

Our own fans believe we can win the Championship — they expect us to win everything we go in for. I was disappointed with our League Cup defeats by Coventry, but the Polish side, Widzew Lodz, looked a very useful outfit and proved this by beating Juventus in the next round of the UEFA Cup.

Garry Birtles is slowly but surely settling down. His value is that he holds the ball so well, which allows others to get into good positions. Jimmy Greenhoff did this job so well before Garry. Incidentally, I wish Jimmy all the best with Blackpool. He was very popular at O.T. with both players and fans. He'll do a good job for Ballie's Blackpool. He's just about the best one-touch player I've ever seen.

This Saturday (November 29th) United face Southampton at home. Saints have lost their way after a bright start, but they've got a good record at Old Trafford and it won't be easy.

Join me again in a fortnight,

Raymond

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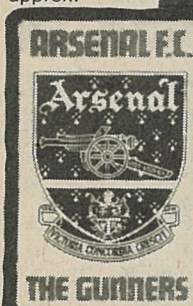
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Four players talk
about their ideal
foreign country for
football, if they
didn't play in
England.

THE LIKE



'West Germany could improve me'

The standard in the Bundesliga is on a par
to the Football League.



**JOE
JORDAN**
(Man. Utd)

I LIKE winning too much. I always
play that way. I could never play
where football is not treated
seriously, whatever part of the
world it was in. That's why playing
in Australia, America or
somewhere like that does not
inspire me at all.

If I didn't play in the Football
League, I'd pick West Germany.
The standard is high and is similar
to ours. They get reasonable
crowds, the facilities are excellent
and I am convinced it would
benefit my career. I could envisage
becoming a better player and that
would be very important to me.

The coaches in Germany are of a
high standard, too, and they have
a great track record at club and
international level. I've played
there several times and have to
say the facilities are excellent. Fine
grounds, modern accommodation
for players and spectators — it's
the country I would like to play in,
if I had the choice.

Some might fancy a good
climate but to me, it wouldn't
come into consideration. After all,
we start our season in England in
heat, play on firm grounds and
then mud heaps and might also

play in snow and frost. So if you've
played football in England you
should be able to play anywhere in
the world!

British players have gone to Italy
but I think it would be very difficult
to adapt to playing there. They like
to take players away for two or
three days before each game, and
we're not used to that. Wives and
children would have to adapt, as
well, and that might prove a
stumbling block.

No, England is the place for me
but if I went anywhere, it would be
to West Germany. Good salary,
high standard of football and
excellent standard of living. I think
a player would have little trouble
settling down.

'Barcelona's atmosphere is fantastic'



**ERIC
GATES**
(Ipswich)

ONE country and stadium
stands out in my memory as a
place I'd like to play abroad if I left
English football. I've appeared a
couple of times in the Nou Camp
Stadium, Barcelona, when Ipswich
drew the Catalan club in recent
European club tournaments. I've

COUNTRY THEY'D TO PLAY IN

got to say, I'd love to play for a club like that.

The atmosphere is always fantastic and it is an exceptional place. The challenge of playing for Barcelona would be immense.

As a place Brazil would be a good bet for living and playing the game. Straight off the football field and on to the beach at Rio — that sounds inviting! But it wouldn't suit me, it's too far away from home. I'm an Englishman at heart — I love this country, and living here. Whenever I go away, I'm pleased to come home so maybe playing abroad wouldn't suit me.

I have little doubt if I did, I would receive a lot of physical contact, especially in a country like Spain. I'm on the small side so they would take advantage of that.

As a place to live, Scandinavia would be good but I'd never consider going there to play on a permanent basis, because the standard just isn't high enough. Once you're used to the Football League levels, the choice of country to go to is limited.

Playing in Barcelona was a great experience so that would be the place I'd choose. But it's not likely considering how much I like this country!

I have been lucky enough to have been called into England's full squad for recent matches, and that would be another decisive factor.

I would never go to another country if I thought it would jeopardise my international career. I could hardly be described as an England regular, and my only concern at the moment is to improve that position and help Ipswich stay at the top of the table.

Eric Gates (dark shirt) has played against Barcelona in European games.



'Argentina would suit me'



PETER BARNES
(W.B.A.)

I HAD the opportunity to join PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch side, a couple of years ago but turned it down. I'm glad I did, looking back, because their football is in serious decline. But I'd be more appreciated as a player abroad.

West Germany and Argentina would top my list if I had a choice, with Spain not far behind. Italy would be the biggest challenge because I'm a forward and would do well if I proved myself in that country! They're cynical to front runners and it would be difficult to play there. But I'm not certain the same applies to Argentina, even though they used to be known as physical.

Look at some of the players who have performed for Argentina in recent years. Ardiles, Kempes, Maradona — they're types who like to go forward and attack, and show off their skills. Argentina would be a good choice.

They are very skilful on the ball and although the game is completely different, they certainly have more flair than we do in England. The way players like those I've mentioned have come

Argentina have some very talented players like River Plate's Ramon Diaz.

through in recent years, proves the point.

The emphasis in Spain is much more on attacking football, than it is in England. We are the opposite. Our game is stifled, taking players on and getting past them seems to be a thing of the past. Many in England cannot beat opponents even if they want to. But that isn't the case on the Continent.

I suppose West Germany would be the ideal country, in terms of similarity to our life-style and overall football ability which is high. But the thought of learning some of those Argentinian ball skills is an exciting one!

'West Germany - then back to Australia'



CRAIG JOHNSTON
(Boro)

BEING Australian, I'd pick a country which could give me something the North-East never will — warmth! Seriously, that's one thing I dislike about England — the climate. When you've been used to Australia, your blood is thin and you find it hard adapting to the English winter.

I'd need to consider the standard

of living in foreign countries before opting for a particular one. And bearing that in mind, I'd go for West Germany, even if it didn't give me all the warmth I'd like!

I would never consider going to Spain, Argentina or Italy because they are too physical in terms of fouls. I think I'd find it hard to stay injury-free with the tackles they're capable of, so I wouldn't want to go there.

I'd cause a riot because if someone fouled me badly, I'd retaliate. The crowd would probably be after my blood so that would never work!

I'm not interested in France; they don't have the overall quality of England or West Germany. But the latter does have some very good sides, as competitions like the UEFA Cup, Cup-Winners' Cup and European Cup continues to prove.

The Germans are better technicians than the English. I'm sure my skills would improve if I went there. But for determination, running and enthusiasm in football, England is the only place to be. They are better at those aspects than anyone else.

Another attraction in Germany would be the higher wages, and lower taxes. The standard of living would be appealing. So taking everything into account, I'd go to West Germany.

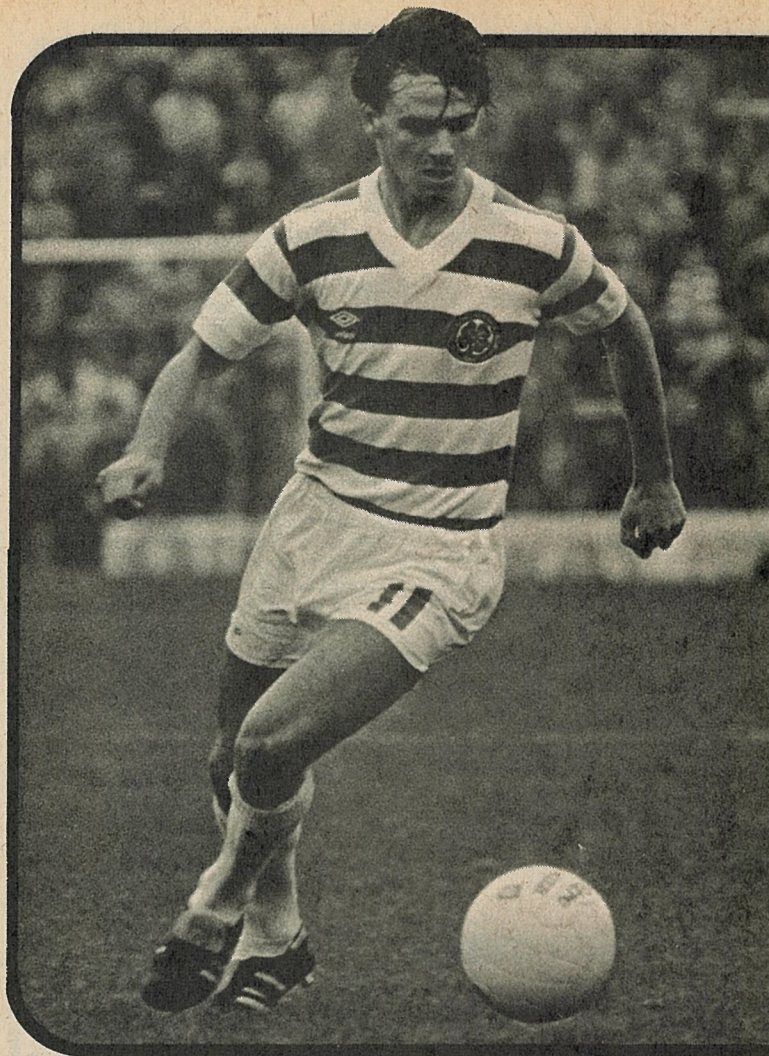
But when my career does end in English football, the likelihood is I'll return to Australia. That's where I come from so it's inevitable I'll go back there when I'm finished over here.

As most people probably know, I could have played for England, Scotland, Australia or South Africa.

I chose England, and have since been rewarded with appearances for the Under-21 side. But I am an Australian at heart, and the sun and warm climate will prove too much of an attraction for me when I hang up my boots. But that won't be for quite a while yet!

Johnston believes the West Germans have a good standard of living as Sepp Maier shows with his tennis club.





SPAIN 1982, and the hectic scramble for the most treasured prize in sport — the World Cup — is just around the corner.

Scotland aim to book their place in their third successive World Cup Finals and are grimly determined to atone for the astonishing blunders that highlighted their crusade in Argentina in '78, where the dreams were demolished in kamikaze fashion.

Team manager Jock Stein insists there is a more sensible attitude to the international team these days. There are no longer threats of mass suicides among the Tartan Army if instant success is not achieved.

There is still a long way to go before the Scots can talk about the challenge of Spain, but one thing is abundantly clear... they will have some new faces in their line-up to give the opposition something to think about.

This week SHOOT turns the spotlight on some of those youngsters who could persuade Jock Stein that their extra special talents should go on parade alongside Diego Maradona and Company!

SCOTLAND'S

THERE can be no doubt as to which young player has made the greatest impact in Scotland this season — Celtic's 19-year-old goalscoring sensation Charlie Nicholas.

Already he has been tipped to become another Kenny Dalglish, and his record this season stands comparison with any other player in Europe.

Nicholas — SHOOT first brought him to your attention over a year ago when we told you he was

Charlie Nicholas, the goalscoring sensation of Parkhead who has succeeded Kenny Dalglish as the hero of Celtic.

destined to score a mountain of goals for Celtic — is already a record breaker at such a tender age when he scored in eight successive games, a feat no other Premier Division player has managed.

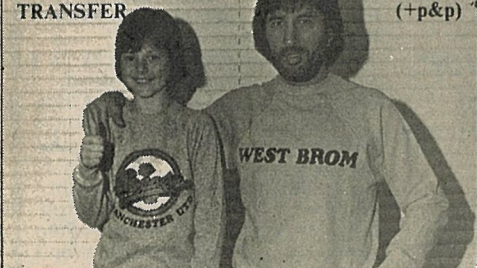
"Yes, I suppose I felt pressure," says Nicholas, "because I knew the run was going to end sometime. It came to a halt when we lost 1-0 to Timisoara in the Cup-Winners' Cup-tie in Rumania.

"But in the following game, a League fixture against Dundee United at Parkhead, I picked up the run again when I scored in our 2-0 victory.

"That was an important goal as

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far as my confidence goes. It was good to get back on the mark so swiftly after the disappointment of Europe."

Nicholas has declared war on goalkeepers this season since coming into the first team, and even the Celtic fans have been astonished to see the calibre of finishing from such a young player.

"Every goal is a good one to score," says cheeky Charlie. "My

SUPER KIDS



John MacDonald's goals have helped to keep Rangers at the top of the Premier Division this season.

okay for the individual, but it does nothing for the team!"

Alex Ferguson, the Pittodrie manager who signed Bell for The Saints while he was the Paisley boss, couldn't believe his ears when he was told the player had been freed.

"There was never any doubt about the boy's ability," says Fergie. "I knew he could play football with the best of them and I moved in right away to take him to Pittodrie."

Individuality

Bell has been in and out of the first team, but the big breakthrough is not far away. He is allowed to express his individuality in the Dons first team.

The player has responded to the subtle promptings of his manager and now his career, after a false start, is really going to take off.

"It was a shock getting that free transfer from St Mirren," says midfielder Bell, "but it's turned out to be the best thing that has ever happened to me. I'm determined to make the grade at Pittodrie."

One of Bell's team-mates who has surprised everyone with his overall ability this season is goalkeeper Jim Leighton, the youngster who has taken over from the experienced Bobby Clark, who is out with cartilage trouble.

Leighton might not look like a typical goalkeeper. In fact, one player says: "He reminds me of an outside-right. He's not that big and he's got bandy legs!"

However, whether Leighton's style is straight out of the Lev Yashin textbook or not, he is still a very capable 'keeper who has made his critics eat their words.

Clark says: "I knew he wouldn't let down anyone. I've seen him in action and knew that he had what

it takes.

"When he and John Gardiner were at the club I said one of them would have to leave to further their career, because both were so good."

"Last season the manager, Mr Ferguson, sold John to Dundee United and kept Jim, and the player took that as a massive boost to his confidence. He's been doing such a good job that I know I face a real battle on my hands if I'm to get back in the first team when my injury finally clears up."

Nicholas, MacDonald, Bell and Leighton... just four names of soccer starlets with a target to aim for. Scottish soccer might still be suffering some sort of reaction from the massive failure in Argentina, but a repeat is highly unlikely in Spain if, of course, Jock Stein's men make the Finals.

These youngsters and other like them are desperate to make up for the agonies of the past.

extremely strange reason. Believe it or not, Clunie thought he was too good!

Clunie believed it was impossible to fit Bell into a set team pattern. He said: "He wants a ball of his own to play with. That's



Jim Leighton has proved an able deputy in the Aberdeen goal for the injured veteran Bobby Clark.

best so far was my effort in Hungary against Dysgyeor Miskolc in the Preliminary Round of the Cup-Winners' Cup.

"It was my first European game for Celtic and it was marvellous to score on foreign soil. We lost that tie 2-1, but since we had won the first-leg 6-0 there was never any sweat."

Celtic, of course, are careful their young superstar isn't overexposed. Manager Billy McNeill will not be rushing the teenager, but he says: "Charlie is a natural. I thought at the start of the season that he was the best goalscorer on our books, but I didn't want to push him into the first team until I thought he was absolutely ready."

"But for one so young he has seen much of the world. He has been on trips all over Europe with the Scottish Youth team and also the Celtic Boys' Clubs.

Targets

"He has had more experience on European frontiers than some players double his age!"

Nicholas is setting no targets for himself. He isn't trying to be a second Kenny Dalglish. He is a youngster who keeps away from publicity off the pitch and he makes no outrageous promises.

Yet each match day he shows the potential of a goalscorer who will in time prove to be invaluable to the Scottish international team. At his current rate of progress he will surely be included somewhere in Jock Stein's plans, even if it is just to soak up the atmosphere.

John MacDonald, of Rangers, has a year's start on Nicholas, but he is in the same category.

While Nicholas is being labelled a 'Dalglish' or a 'Denis Law', MacDonald has found himself being termed the 'new Jimmy Greaves'. It seems everyone must be given a tag these days!

MacDonald couldn't have wished for a better start to the current season. All eyes were on

the big money men of Spurs and Arsenal at the start of the programme when they came to Ibrox for warm up games.

MacDonald, who cost Rangers only a paltry signing-on fee, found himself rubbing shoulders with soccer's millionaires, but if he was overawed in any way he certainly didn't show it.

In fact, while everyone was looking at the first £1 million plus teenager Clive Allen, playing one of his few games for Arsenal, MacDonald was quietly scoring the two goals that gave Rangers a 2-0 victory.

"John has things in his play which you cannot coach into a player," says manager John Greig. "You watch him inside the penalty box and he just drifts into scoring positions. He sees situations so early that it is uncanny."

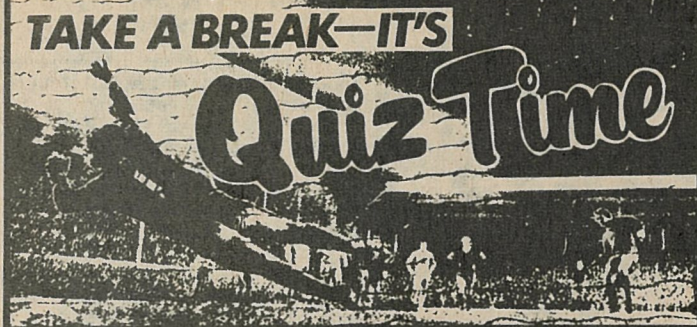
Rangers' form has been erratic this season, but when they have touched the dizzy heights of soccer splendour MacDonald has been in the thick of things making and taking goals.

Such goals are the trademark of these wonderfully skilled youngsters. Ironically, these two bright babes played together for the first time in the Under-21 team this season against Sweden... and neither scored as Scotland slumped to a shock 2-0 defeat.

Jock Stein is hoping that this is not a pointer to their international futures. SHOOT thinks it is only a matter of time before these boys combine into a twosome that will tear defences to shreds.

Surprisingly, one of the most elegant of midfield men in Scotland at the moment is a player who was given a free transfer a year ago by St Mirren and isn't even assured of a first team place with new club Aberdeen.

The name of the player is Dougie Bell, and he was freed by Love Street manager Jim Clunie for an



TRUE OR FALSE?

- Nottingham Forest have won the Football League Championship on three occasions.
- Frank Stapleton scored Arsenal's winning goal in the 1979 F.A. Cup Final against Manchester United at Wembley.
- The three-up, three-down promotion and relegation system was introduced in the Football League in 1973.
- Swansea City's Leighton James began his League career with Burnley.

STRIKERS

- Mark Hateley is a striker with which First Division club?

2. Which one of the following — Eddie Kelly (Notts County), Alan Curbishley (Birmingham City) or Malcolm Poskett (Watford) is a striker?

3. Do you know the Christian names of the following strikers...
(a) ----- Palmer (Manchester City),
(b) ----- Robinson (Brighton) and



L	T	N	O	R	E	P	C	L	B	M	S
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E	S	S	I	S	N	I	S	N	T	T	H
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M	O	O	B	B	I	N	I	G	L	A	K
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A	R	O	K	L	L	T	N	M	E	S	R
O	N	S	C	M	N	L	A	P	R	E	O

TRACE-A TEAM

The names of 11 past-and-present West Bromwich Albion players are spelt out in this frame in straight lines, either horizontally, vertically or diagonally and forwards or backwards. See how many you can spot.

(c) ----- Jankovic (below left, Middlesbrough)?

4. Peter Coyne has been scoring for which Fourth Division club this season?

JUMBLED KEEPERS

Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the names of five goalkeepers and their clubs.

- LNAAUHRGO (TPRAKCITIT-LESH).
- YRAMNEEECL (OOLLPRVEI).
- YRONBSAEI (OONRTM).
- MMYJIMMRREI (NSOTALLVAI).
- MJIOGLTNIHE (EEENRDBA).

PICTURE PUZZLE

Study the photograph taken during a Wolves and Brighton League game this season and see if you can answer the following questions.

- Can you identify the Wolves player on the right?
- And the Brighton player?
- Where was the game played?
- What was the result?



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ANSWERS:

JUMBLED KEEPERS: 1 Alan Rough (Partick Thistle), 2 Ray Clemence (Liverpool), 3 Roy Baines (Morton), 4 Jimmy Rimmer (Aston Villa), 5. Jim Leighton (Aberdeen).
STRIKERS: 1 Coventry, 2 Poskett, 3. (a) Roger, (b) Michael, (c) Bosco, 4. Crewe.
TRUE OR FALSE? 1. False — they have won the title once. 2. False — Alan Sunderland got the winner. 3. True. 4. True.
PICTURE PUZZLE: 1. Wayne Clarke, 2. Gary Williams, 3. Goldstone Ground, home of Brighton, 4. Brighton won 2-0.
TRACE-A-TEAM: Godden, Mulligan, Robertson, Wick, Batson, Wile, Cantello, Robson, Mills, Brown, Regis, Tre-

ON THE BALL ANSWERS:

ACROSS: (3) Boyer. (4) The Saints. (10) Grasp. (12) Degree. (13) After. (14) Robed. (16) Vince. (17) Idiots. (18) Frost. (19) Greenwood. (22) Diary.
DOWN: (1) Moss. (2) Remi. (4) Terracing. (5) Eager. (6) Alan Brown. (7) Nap. (8) Sheffield. (9) Regis. (11) Heath. (15) Ditto. (18) Foe. (20) Eoin. (21) Ward.

COWANS LIKES A DOG'S LIFE

ASTON Villa hit the top of the First Division after exactly one-third of this season. It has taken Villa almost 50 years to reach the summit of English football, reviving memories of their glory days, long ago.

A manager better known for his avoidance of publicity and big name stars, plus a crop of excellent young players with true talent were just two of the reasons for Villa's climb. Whether Ron Saunders' predominantly young side can maintain their lofty perch through a long, hard winter against such renowned campaigners as League Champions Liverpool, remains to be seen.

But one thing is certain about Aston Villa — they have assembled one of the finest collections of young players seen in England for years. Gary Shaw, Tony Morley, Gordon Cowans, Colin Gibson and others add up to some astute management.

One of the youngsters, Gordon Cowans, celebrated his 22nd birthday just about the time Villa were striking it rich in the First Division in late October. And, by then, Cowans already had something else to celebrate — his first call-up for the England senior squad, although he then captained the Under-21 side in Rumania, when the youngsters were beaten 4-0.

Saviours

Gordon Cowans had already been dubbed the latest miracle kid of English football. Hoddle, Rix, Ward, Birtles . . . so many have been hailed as the saviours of our standing at international level in recent years. Gordon Cowans was the latest in such a line, yet there is no doubt that the youngster who was on Villa's books as an 11-year-old, is something special.

Cowans could afford to look back and smile about his first meeting with England manager Ron Greenwood. "I met him after a League game earlier this season — and I knew he'd been watching me," said Cowans. "But unfortunately, I hadn't played at all well in that particular match and had thought to myself 'that's my chance blown for a while'.

"Yet within ten days, I'd been called into the senior squad, when a few first choice players like Keegan, Wilkins and Brooking were ruled out by injury. It was a great surprise to me."

What Cowans didn't know was that Greenwood had been watching him for some time and had seen enough to convince him of the youngster's ability. One bad game wasn't sufficient to alter his belief in the young man's enormous potential for the future.

Cowans, single but with a



steady girlfriend, now lives alone in his house in the countryside, near Villa's ground. But he used to live with his parents after they moved down from Durham, really just to help their son's football career develop. They moved back to the North a year or so back, confident that those crucial early years had been safely negotiated by their son.

Away from football, Cowans now owns a greyhound, and dogs are very much a part of his family's history. "My father breeds greyhounds and I now own my own dog," says Gordon. "I like to go and see it running, and keep in touch with the trainer. But as for other hobbies, I like golf and an occasional evening out, especially for a meal. But I'm not a tearaway at every nightclub in the area."

That kind of sanity shows on the field. Cowans has developed rapidly as a left-sided midfielder player, with Des Bremner on the right and Dennis Mortimer, the club skipper, in the centre of midfield. The three complement each other superbly. Cowans has the skill, Mortimer the vision and Bremner the resilience and defensive qualities. It's the ideal blend, even though Cowans admits: "I prefer the centre of midfield."

"I think we have a chance of landing a title. I fancy us to finish in the top four this season and perhaps get a place in Europe, but whether we can win the title, only time will tell. If we keep this squad together we certainly have a chance. But even if we cannot win the Championship this time, you've got to say we should be a

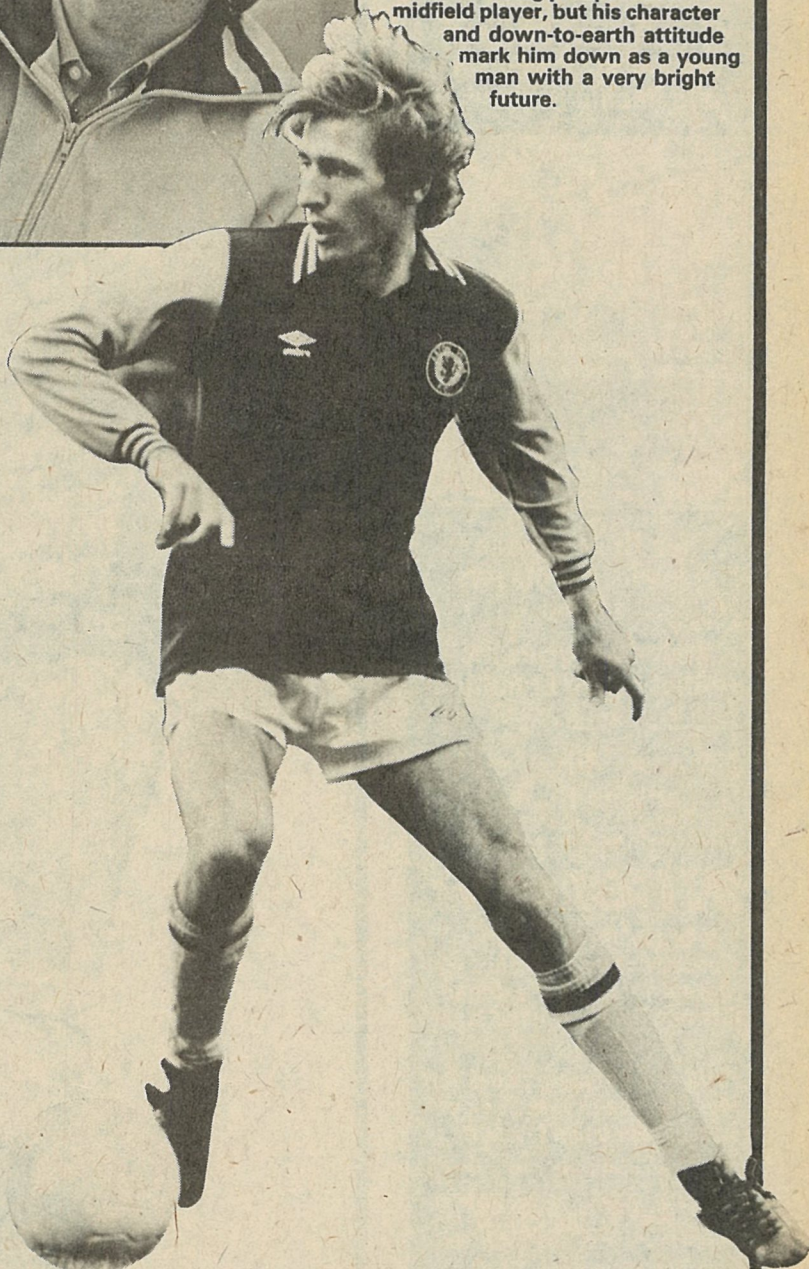
better side in 1981-82 because we would have had an extra year's experience."

As for Cowans, he has two great ambitions — to win something with Villa and also be a part of the England squad for the 1982 World Cup Finals.

"I'm certain England will qualify and I'd love to be a member of the party," he says. "But, in the meantime, I need to improve my own game."

"There will always be five or ten minutes somewhere in a game, where I'm just not involved as much as I should be. My mind wanders, but again, it's something I'm working to put right."

Ron Greenwood will be encouraged by that kind of determination. Cowans is already an outstanding prospect as a midfielder player, but his character and down-to-earth attitude mark him down as a young man with a very bright future.



NEXT WEEK...

We name the player most likely to take Kevin Keegan's crown as Europe's Number One star.

Brighton manager Alan Mullery talks about his future.

The goalkeeper who's turned the fans' jeers to cheers.

When Tommy Docherty (below) struck horror into Rachid Harkouk.



Ken Brown — the manager the players wanted.

Andy Gray gives his verdict on the £1 million men.

Graham Rix — still misses Brady.

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BE MORE flexible in team selection and pick the players in form! That's the advice for England manager Ron Greenwood from one of English football's foreign imports, Southampton defender Ivan Golac.

Yugoslav Golac, who played for Partizan Belgrade before coming to England, believes the Football League has quality players in abundance. "That fact should guarantee England success at international level," says Golac.

Forget England's recent defeat

in Rumania. "Yes, they were beaten but any international side will lose at times.

"English fans seem to criticise the international side too easily even after a good result.

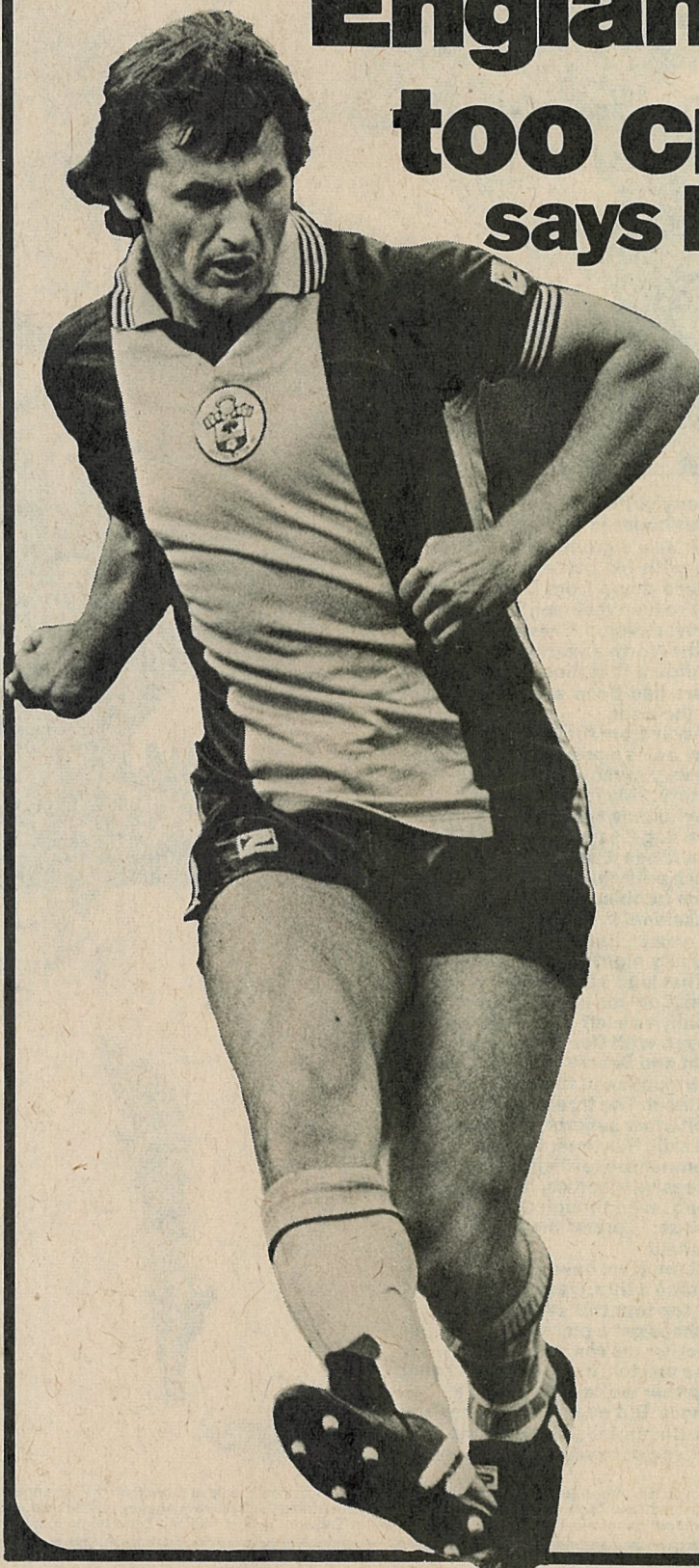
"English football is highly rated in Yugoslavia and it is the same throughout the world. I would say only West Germany can match England for the talent and depth of ability.

"The Football League and Bundesliga are the best in the world. In England, you have 22 clubs in

the First Division and you never know which teams will win on a Saturday. In other countries, the standard of football is much lower."

But Golac does believe England should play the in-form men, whenever an international side is selected. "For example, Phil Boyer was the leading scorer in England last season and played superbly. But he was never in the international team and I cannot understand that," says Golac. "He was scoring goals yet other players

'England fans too critical' says Ivan Golac



who were out of form were selected. That is strange.

"I believe in-form players should be picked to get the best out of them. David Johnson of Liverpool was another who should have more caps. Goalscorers all say the same — if you are in form, you feel sure you can score in any team."

Golac says that England are his tip not only to reach the World Cup Finals in Spain, in 1982, but to do well. "England will have a good chance in Spain. The quality is there within the players available to Ron Greenwood, and with the tournament being held in Europe, England should do well."

Future

Coincidentally, Golac's contract at The Dell expires at the end of the World Cup Finals in July, 1982. At the moment, he does not know where his future lies, whether at Saints or possibly the United States.

"I am 30 so maybe another two or three years will be the maximum for me in England," he says. "It is a good standard here and I would not want to stay if I was not good enough.

"I have enjoyed every minute of my time in England. Things have gone well for me and I have settled well with my family. I like it here and the football is a big challenge to someone from my country.

"Despite all the criticism English football is still one of the best in the world. It has been a privilege for me to play in your First Division."

Whatever the future holds, history has already carved one little stone by which to remember Ivan Golac. He was the first of the foreign signings to appear for an English club in a domestic Cup Final — the 1979 League Cup Final at Wembley against Nottingham Forest.

Appearing at Wembley and being in the same side as Kevin Keegan, are two of the highlights of Golac's career in England football. "Playing alongside Kevin has been a fine experience," he says. "I have been very impressed with how hard Kevin works in a match."



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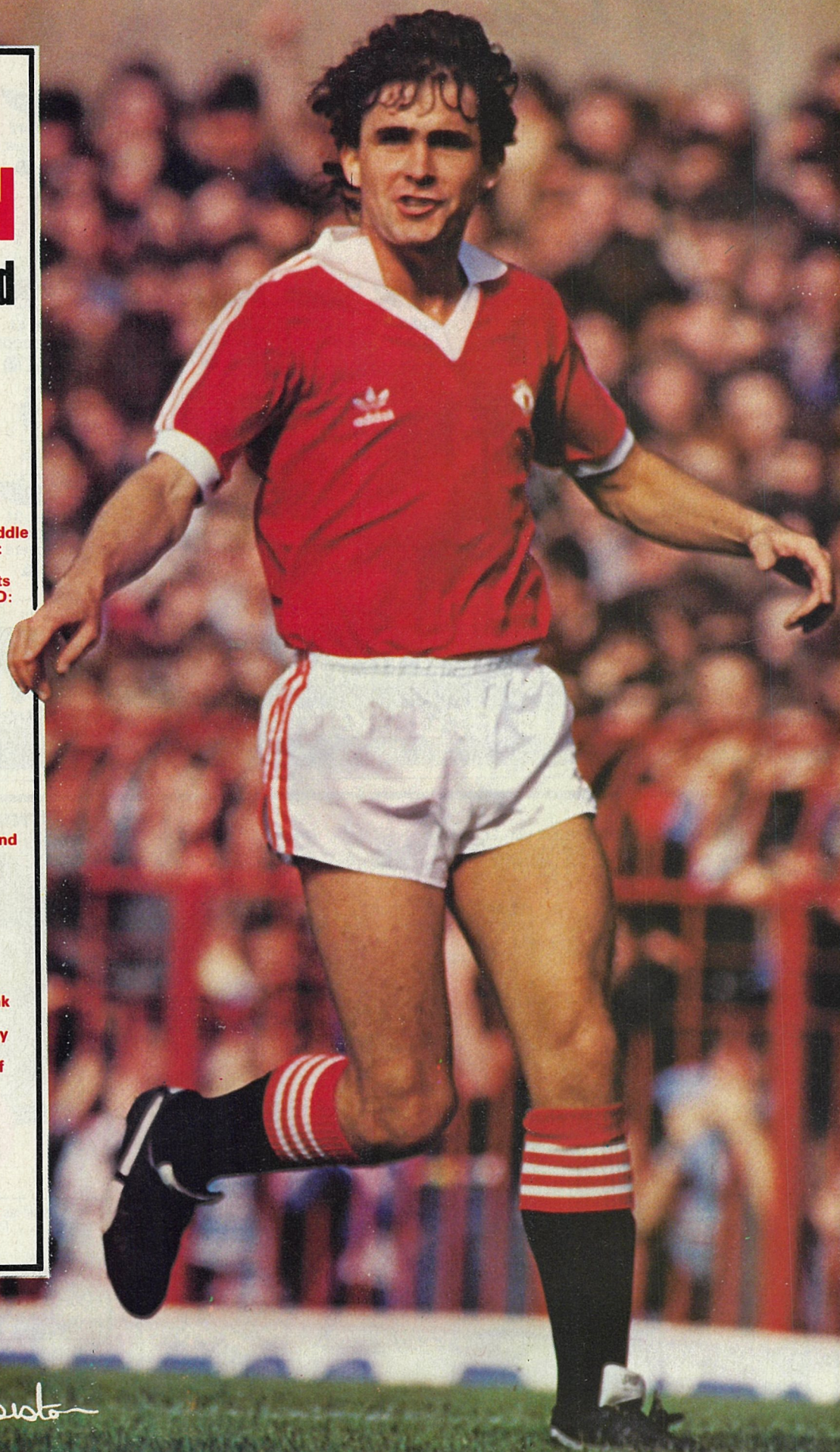
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NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

ARTHUR ALBISTON

Manchester Utd

FULL NAME: Arthur Richard Albiston
BIRTHPLACE: Edinburgh
BIRTHDATE: July 14, 1957
HEIGHT: 5ft 7½ins
WEIGHT: 10st 8lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
MARRIED: To Elaine
CHILDREN: Son Ross (6 months)
CAR: Alfa Romeo GTV
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Mail
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Glenn Hoddle
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Kevin Moran
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Hearts
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Denis Law
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Golf, tennis
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: All difficult in their own way
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The 1977 F.A. Cup Final
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Being injured last season
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Arsenal
FAVOURITE FOOD + DRINK: Italian food, tea
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Listening to records and reading/Cigarette smoke
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Bermuda
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR: Larry Hagman
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Playing golf
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Donna Summer, George Benson
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: A drink with the lads
BEST FRIEND: I hope I have many
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father, and the staff at Old Trafford over the years
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Scottish Schoolboy, Youth and Under 21 caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be successful in life
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Don't know
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Bo Derek



Arthur Albiston

SHOOT!